

# **FILIPINOS IN HISTORY**

**Volume V**

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## DEDICATION

This is the fifth of the volumes of *Filipinos in History*, a compilation of biographies of noted Filipinos whose lives, works, deeds and contributions to the historical development of our country have left lasting influences and inspiration to the present and future generations of Filipinos.

National Historical Institute  
1996

# **FILIPINOS IN HISTORY**

**Volume V**

**National Historical Institute  
1996**



**MGA ULIRANG PILIPINO**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Ramon Abella .....                  | 1  |
| Irene M. Abelgas .....              | 4  |
| Lorenza Agoncillo .....             | 6  |
| Marcelino Aguas .....               | 9  |
| Gregorio Aguilera .....             | 11 |
| Ramon Aguirre .....                 | 13 |
| Hilaria del Rosario-Aguinaldo ..... | 15 |
| Sofio Alandi .....                  | 18 |
| Godofredo Alcasid .....             | 19 |
| Raymundo Alindada .....             | 21 |
| Tomas Almonte .....                 | 23 |
| Jose C. Altavas .....               | 24 |
| Francisco Alvarez .....             | 26 |
| Vicente Alvarez .....               | 28 |
| Juan E. Alvear .....                | 31 |
| Leon Apacible .....                 | 33 |
| Melchor P. Aquino .....             | 36 |
| Mariano Araña .....                 | 38 |
| Tomas Arejola .....                 | 40 |
| Pedro Aunario .....                 | 44 |
| Anselmo Avanceña .....              | 46 |
| Mauricio Balbino .....              | 48 |
| Joaquin Balmori .....               | 50 |
| Santiago Barcelona .....            | 52 |
| Enrique M. Barreto de Ycaza .....   | 55 |
| Jose E. Basa .....                  | 57 |
| Hermogenes Bautista .....           | 59 |
| Francisca Tirona-Benitez .....      | 61 |

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Candelario Borja .....         | 63  |
| Eustaquio Boyles .....         | 64  |
| Tomas Briones .....            | 65  |
| Antonino Buenaventura .....    | 67  |
| Eugenio Cabezas .....          | 70  |
| Feliciano Cabuco .....         | 72  |
| Marcial Calleja .....          | 74  |
| Fernando Canon .....           | 76  |
| Jose Canseco, Jr. ....         | 79  |
| Maria E. Carpena .....         | 82  |
| Jose Luna Castro .....         | 84  |
| Casiano Causin .....           | 87  |
| Florentino Cayco .....         | 89  |
| Pedro Chaves .....             | 91  |
| Juan Climaco .....             | 93  |
| Melecio Cojuanco .....         | 96  |
| Jose Coronel .....             | 98  |
| Esteban Contreras .....        | 100 |
| Manuel Corrales .....          | 102 |
| Hermenigildo Cruz .....        | 104 |
| Bado Dangwa .....              | 106 |
| Sebastian de Castro .....      | 109 |
| Esteban de la Rama .....       | 111 |
| Vicente del Fierro .....       | 113 |
| Ceferino de Leon .....         | 115 |
| Mariano V. de los Santos ..... | 116 |
| Salvador K. Demetrio .....     | 119 |
| Vicente de Vera .....          | 121 |
| Vicente Alvarez-Dizon .....    | 123 |
| Regino Dorillo .....           | 126 |
| Juan M. Elizalde .....         | 128 |
| Jose A. Estella .....          | 130 |

|                                                    |     |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Jacobo Fajardo .....                               | 132 |
| Praxedes Fajardo .....                             | 134 |
| Lorenzo Fenoy .....                                | 136 |
| Melecio Figueroa .....                             | 138 |
| Leona Florentino .....                             | 141 |
| Vicente Foz .....                                  | 143 |
| Higino Francisco .....                             | 145 |
| Isauro Gabaldon .....                              | 147 |
| Troadio D. Galicano .....                          | 149 |
| Benjamin Corteza Gaston .....                      | 151 |
| Ariston Gella .....                                | 155 |
| Manuel Gomez .....                                 | 157 |
| Juan Bautista Perfecto Gorordo .....               | 160 |
| Maximo Gregorio .....                              | 162 |
| Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero .....                        | 165 |
| Francisco V. Guilledo (a.k.a. "Pancho Villa) ..... | 168 |
| Dimas Guzman .....                                 | 172 |
| Delfina Herbosa-Rizal .....                        | 174 |
| Adriano Hernandez .....                            | 176 |
| Benito Iban .....                                  | 178 |
| Candido Iban .....                                 | 180 |
| Hugo Ilagan .....                                  | 182 |
| ✓ Vicente Ilustre .....                            | 184 |
| Carlos Imperial .....                              | 186 |
| Antonio Jayme .....                                | 188 |
| Pedro V. Jimenez .....                             | 190 |
| Toribio Joson .....                                | 192 |
| Jose Joya .....                                    | 194 |
| Agueda Kahabagan .....                             | 197 |
| Urbano A. Lacuna .....                             | 199 |
| Cesar Legaspi .....                                | 201 |
| Jose C. Locsin .....                               | 204 |

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Leandro Locsin .....          | 206 |
| Vicente A. Locsin .....       | 208 |
| Miguel Logarta .....          | 210 |
| Mariano Lopez, Sr. ....       | 214 |
| Sixto Lopez .....             | 216 |
| Victoriano Luciano .....      | 219 |
| Marcela Marcelo-Lugo .....    | 222 |
| Cayetano Lukban .....         | 225 |
| Victoriano Luna .....         | 228 |
| Generoso S. Maceda .....      | 230 |
| Manuel P. Manahan .....       | 232 |
| Raymundo Melliza .....        | 235 |
| Eliodoro Mercado .....        | 237 |
| Diego Mojica .....            | 239 |
| Alfredo Montelibano, Sr. .... | 245 |
| Agustin Montilla.....         | 251 |
| Gregoria Montoya .....        | 253 |
| Manuel V. Moran .....         | 255 |
| Amelito R. Mutuc .....        | 257 |
| Elisa R. Ochoa .....          | 259 |
| Pedro Tamesis Orata .....     | 261 |
| Francisco Osorio .....        | 268 |
| Nicanor Padilla .....         | 270 |
| Isabel Padua .....            | 272 |
| Catalino J. Palisoc .....     | 274 |
| Enrique Paraiso .....         | 276 |
| Dolores Ignacio Paterno ..... | 277 |
| Aurelio S. Pineda .....       | 278 |
| Manuel Rey .....              | 279 |
| Crisostomo Riel.....          | 281 |
| Francisco Mercado Rizal ..... | 284 |
| Josefa Rizal .....            | 288 |

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Trinidad Rizal .....                  | 290 |
| Alfredo Roa .....                     | 292 |
| Angel Roco .....                      | 294 |
| Mamitua Saber .....                   | 296 |
| Jose Salamanca .....                  | 298 |
| Gregorio San Agustin .....            | 300 |
| Federico J. Sarabia .....             | 302 |
| Mariano Siauinco .....                | 304 |
| Gregorio Torres Singian .....         | 306 |
| Vicente E. Singson .....              | 308 |
| Vicente C. Somoza .....               | 310 |
| Francisco Soriano .....               | 312 |
| Mamintal Tamano .....                 | 314 |
| Carmen C. Velasquez.....              | 316 |
| Apolinar Velez .....                  | 318 |
| Ariston Villanueva .....              | 320 |
| Gliceria Marcella-Villavicencio ..... | 326 |
| Enrique Zobel de Ayala .....          | 328 |

RAMON ABELLA  
(d.1897 ?)  
Revolutionary Patriot From Bicol

**R**amon Abella was the son of Manuel Abella and the elder brother of Domingo Abella, both of whom were executed at Bagumbayan for allegedly plotting to launch an uprising against Spain. For the same crime, Ramon Abella himself was exiled to the prison island of Fernando Po.

Ramon's father, who was originally from Tayabas, now Quezon, served as an *escribano*, or clerk of court, of Nueva Caceres. After he retired, he engaged in farming and business, and prospered. This enabled him to send not only Ramon, but also his other sons Mariano and Domingo, to study at the seminary in the city which was the center of education in the Bicol Region.

Ramon Abella inherited the traits of his father. He was liberal-minded and hated any form of oppression. He also engaged in business and farming and, in due time, became a rich landlord. His economic advancement and liberal ideas were viewed with suspicion by conservative Spaniards, especially the friars and writers like Pablo Feced, or "Quioquiap," as he was called by Filipinos in Spain. Abella's membership in Masonry was seen as a bad influence in the community.

The outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in August 1896 gave the Spanish authorities the opportunity to get rid of Masons and *ilustrados* whom they considered as agitators and *filibusteros*. Abella was arrested on September 16, together with his father and brother Domingo. The elder

Abella, who once called the Spaniards "white carabaos." was branded as the leader of the Katipunan in Nueva Caceres. The three men were jailed at the tribunal and subjected to cruel tortures.

On September 20, 1896, Abella and other prisoners, including some secular priests, were taken aboard the steamer *Isarog* which transported them to Manila. He and the rest of the laymen were detained at the Bilibid Prison, while the members of the clergy, namely, Fathers Inocencio Herrera, Gabriel Prieto, and Severino Diaz, were confined at the San Agustin Convent.

On December 29, Abella and 13 others from Bicol were tried before a military court headed by Lieutenant Colonel Moreno Estellez, with Lieutenant Ramon Despujol as secretary. Their defense counsels, also military officers, were Lieutenants Jose Taviel de Andrade, who was Rizal's former counsel, Salgado, Rivadulla, Souza, and Lopez Blanco. The trial, which was a sham, was conducted in a courtroom packed with a pro-Spanish crowd, who cheered every time a crucial point was made against the indictees.

The prosecution was not able to present any convincing evidence, but relied solely on the indictees' avowal of a wish to see the emancipation of the country from Spanish tyranny.

At the end of the farcical one-day trial, 11 of the men were ordered shot by firing squad at Bagumbayan. One was sentenced to 20 year imprisonment. Abella himself, along with Mariano Araña, was ordered exiled to the prison island of Fernando Po.

Abella and Araña endured cruel treatment at the hands of their escorts, who beat them continually with rifle butts and hard sticks. Aboard the ship that would take them to Spain, they were manacled at the legs in the dark hold, which was located near the boiler room. The heat there was unbearable inhaling coal dust and suffered from near suffocation. They were starved, with not even a drop of water being given them during the voyage, and beaten at will by the sadistic guards.

When the ship arrived in Barcelona, they were taken aboard another vessel to Fernando Po, an island off the coast of West Africa. There, Abella and Araña were mixed with the other prisoners from Cuba, Spain, and Africa. They were reminded by the island's commander that they were traitors sent there to die.

The prisoners on the "death island" stayed in filthy barracks, sleeping without any beddings on the bare rocky floor. For their meals, they were fed

with a niggardly plate of rice, condensed milk, and a rancid piece of bacon.

The ordeal proved too much for Abella, who is said to have succumbed to a disease in 1897 or 1898.

## IRENE M. ABELGAS

### Nursing Pioneer

**I**rene M. Abelgas, who hailed from Calapan, Mindoro, was a pioneer in Philippine nursing, her dedicated service to the nursing profession and to the people spanning some 50 years.

She began her education as a nurse at the Philippine General Hospital in 1916. After finishing her second year there as a head nurse, she enrolled in public health nursing at the University of California in 1919. She was a self-supporting student. She worked as a private nurse in San Francisco and, later, head nurse of the Hannemahn Hospital. She took up her postgraduate course in ward administration at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. She put this knowledge to good use when she was given charge of a maternity ward at Flower Hospital in 1921. She also studied at Columbia University in 1922, working at the same time for her own support at the Henry Street Settlement.

That year, Abelgas was granted two more foreign scholarships. The first one was from the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross. She got the other scholarship when she was already a nursing supervisor of the Red Cross. This enabled her to go to Bedford College of the University of London, where she pursued higher studies in public health nursing, and to observe nursing care and facilities in various hospitals, clinics and public health organizations, as well as institutions for the mentally and physically handi-

capped children in various cities.

When she returned home in 1923, she was named supervising nurse of the American Red Cross-Philippine Chapter. Her studies and experiences abroad proved invaluable to its newly introduced projects, like puericulture centers, school and community nursing, home hygiene and care of the sick, and public health nursing. In 1935, upon the recommendation of the chapter and the Philippine Nursing Association, she became the first Filipino nurse to receive the Florence Nightingale International Foundation Scholarship. When the Philippines established its own Red Cross in 1949, she was named director of its nursing service department.

Abelgas served as a member of the Board of Examiners for nurses for one term. In 1950, together with Socorro Salamanca-Diaz, she composed the committee that took charge of the medicosocial assistance extended by the League of Red Cross Societies to nurses who had contracted tuberculosis during World War II. In 1966, when the Golden Age Club, an organization of nurses, was formed, she was elected as its treasurer.

# LORENZA AGONCILLO

(1890-1972)

Patriot and Educator

**L**orenza Agoncillo was one of three women who made the first Philippine flag.

Born on September 5, 1890 in Taal, Batangas, she was the eldest daughter of Felipe Agoncillo, a lawyer who later became a diplomat in the first Philippine Republic, and Marcela Mariño, who belonged to one of the distinguished families of Taal.

After the outbreak of the revolution in 1896, her father was arrested by the Spanish authorities on suspicion of supporting the movement fighting for Philippine independence, and was ordered deported to Spain. While in Japan, he escaped from his guards and sailed to Hong Kong. In 1897, he was joined by his wife Marcela and their three daughters, including Lorenza, in the British colony. The family settled at a house in 535 Morrison Hill. He had two more daughters born in exile before he returned to the Philippines in 1907.

Back in Hong Kong after the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, he became the head of the Philippine Central Revolutionary Committee, taking over from Roman Basa, who was its first president. His house became the meeting place of other Filipino exiles and revolutionists, including Emilio Aguinaldo himself. The Central Revolutionary Committee, also known as the Hong Kong Junta, served as the Philippine government-in-exile until Aguinaldo's

return to the country in May 1898.

Around March or April 1898, Aguinaldo requested Marcela Agoncillo to make the Philippine flag according to a design, inspired by the Cuban flag, given by the revolutionary committee. Lorenza, then seven-years-old, helped her mother in sewing the flag together with Rizal's niece, Delfina Herbosa Natividad. The task was finished in five days. Aguinaldo took the flag with him when he sailed back to the Philippines on the U.S. transport *McCulloch* after the defeat of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay. It was waved from the window of Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Cavite after he declared the independence of the Philippines on June 12, 1898.

Appointed ambassador plenipotentiary, Felipe Agoncillo campaigned eloquently but vainly in Washington D.C. and Paris for the recognition of the Philippine Republic. After American rule was established in the country, he took his family back to the Philippines. He was later elected to represent the first district of Batangas in the First Philippine Assembly, which was convened in 1907.

Lorenza Agoncillo was a devout Catholic. She entered the congregation of St. Paul de Chartres, intending to become a nun. However, a strange disease affecting her kidneys forced her to abandon her vocation. After recovering her health, she studied at the Philippine Normal School. She became a teacher at the Malate Catholic School, serving there as such for 50 years.

Like her sisters, she was a cultured woman. She sang beautifully and recited with ease poems like Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios" at family gatherings. The old Agoncillo house in Malate, which she shared with her sisters, revealed her fine artistic tastes.

Agoncillo lived through the hardships of the Japanese occupation and the horrors of the liberation of Manila, during which the family house was destroyed. Among the buildings that were heavily damaged in the area was the Malate Catholic School, which she sought to reopen.

She became the driving force not only in restoring the school but also in managing it so it could resume its role as an educational institution. To this twin effort, she gave complete dedication.

In 1967, she received a plaque of merit for her invaluable contributions to the school.

Like her parents, Agoncillo was patriotic and well-bred. Her dignity

was an inspiration to both her colleagues and the thousands of students who passed under her care.

She died on September 2, 1972, three days short of her 82nd birthday.

MARCELINO AGUAS  
(1873- )  
Revolutionary and Assemblyman

**M**arcelino Aguas was a lawyer who became a member of the First Philippine Assembly. He was born in Mexico, Pampanga on June 2, 1873. After finishing his elementary and secondary education at the school managed by Vicente Quirino in San Fernando, Pampanga, he moved to Manila and enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, where he earned his *bachiller en artes* degree. Continuing his studies, he took up law at the University of Santo Tomas, graduating with a *licenciado en jurisprudencia* degree in 1898. He then started a private law practice.

During the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, Aguas joined the revolutionary army, holding the rank of captain. He briefly worked on its general staff, under General Antonio Luna. However, the life of a soldier did not appeal to him. When the Colegio de Segunda Enseñanza was established in Bacolor, Pampanga, he joined its faculty. He taught there as a professor of logic until the Americans marched into the town of Kalumpit, Bulacan in March 1899, forcing him to abandon his job due to the worsening Filipino-American War.

With American rule firmly established in the islands after the war, Aguas worked as municipal councilor of Bacolor in 1903. From 1905 to 1907, he was the town's justice of the peace. In April 1907, he filed his candidacy for assemblyman for the first district of Pampanga in the election for the First Philippine Assembly held on July 30, 1907, and won handily.

At the Assembly, he sat as a member of several committees, including those on justice and the revision of laws. He also served as president and member of the Comité de San Fernando.

One of the leading residents of San Fernando, Aguas was instrumental in transforming the town into the capital of Pampanga.

As a lawyer, Aguas was known for his sharp wit and eloquent tongue, qualities which made him very popular among his fellow Pampangueños, whom he served with dedication.

GREGORIO AGUILERA  
(1869-1921)  
Propagandist and Delegate  
to the Malolos Congress

**G**regorio Aguilera was born in Lipa, Batangas in 1869 to Gregorio Aguilera, the son of a Spaniard who had gone to Lipa in 1858, and a Tagala from Manila.

He earned his *bachiller en artes* degree at the Ateneo Municipal. In 1889, he sailed to Spain to be a part of the Propaganda Movement. He worked with Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Graciano Lopez Jaena, Antonio Luna and others. He became a *vocal* of the junta directiva of the Asociacion Hispano-Filipina. He was thus considered a minor propagandist. Later, he affiliated with the Mosonic lodge "Solidaridad". He traveled extensively in Europe, visiting important cities.

In 1898, he returned to the Philippines and became a member of the historic Malolos Congress. Towards the end of the year, however, he left for Lipa where he founded the Instituto Rizal. The school, which offered *primera* and *segunda enseñanza* courses, opened on January 2, 1899, with Aguilera as President, Gregorio Katigbak as director, and Hugo Latore as *prefecto de estudios*. At this time, he was also a member of the Club Democratico Independista, a non-partisan group with political objectives, and edited *Columnas Volantes de la Federacion Malaya*, a Spanish-Tagalog weekly which first came out on March 23, 1899.

Aguilera played an important role in the nationwide pacification

campaign initiated by the American regime. When General J.F. Bell was the military commander assigned to Batangas, he was the town president of Lipa. Named *presidente* of the *comite de la paz*, Aguilera was instrumental in the eventual surrender of General Miguel Malvar to the Americans, who had instituted harsh measures against the townspeople to break the remaining Filipino resistance.

On March 7, 1904, Aguilera was elected provincial governor of Batangas by its municipal councilors. He ran against Simeon Lopez. His administration tried to stabilize the reign of peace and order in the province, a job Aguilera had carried over from the time of General Malvar's surrender.

Aguilera died on January 16, 1921.

RAMON AGUIRRE  
( - 1897)  
Revolutionary Martyr from Capiz

Ramon Aguirre was a Katipunero who was executed during the Philippine Revolution as one of the 19 martyrs of Capiz.

Following General Francisco del Castillo's abortive attempt to seize the capital town of Kalibo on March 17, 1897, the hastily formed Katipunan to Capiz suddenly found itself waging an uprising to overthrow Spanish rule in Panay.

Armed only with bolos, bamboo spears, and a few guns, the rebels faced the superior native troops of the Spaniards. They were almost able to capture the town of Ibajay, but were eventually driven away with the arrival of additional Spanish troops led by Colonel Ricardo Monet. With General Del Castillo killed and his second-in-command, Candido Iban, captured in Malinao, the Katipuneros, numbering about 50 - including Ramon Aguirre - surrendered to Colonel Monet on April 19 to 22.

Although promised freedom and humane treatment through an amnesty, the rebels who surrendered were instead arrested and imprisoned at the town jail in Kalibo, and then tortured to reveal the names of their comrades. Later, 20 of them, including Aguirre, were picked out from the rest and identified as leaders of the Katipunan.

On the night of March 23, they were led to a camarin, or warehouse, on

Amadeo Street where they were again tortured before being finally shot to death. In the usual Spanish fashion of intimidating would-be rebels, their bodies were paraded around Kalibo and displayed at the town square. Later, their bloody remains were piled atop a cart and hauled for burial in a common grave.

# HILARIA DEL ROSARIO-AGUINALDO

(1877-1921)

Organizer of the Revolutionary Red Cross

**T**he credit for having conceived and organized the first Red Cross Organization in the Philippines goes to Hilaria del Rosario Aguinaldo, the first wife of General Aguinaldo.

Hilaria del Rosario, daughter of Domingo del Rosario and Cristina Reyes, was born in Imus, Cavite in 1877. She studied at La Concordia College and acquired fluency in Spanish.

She was a good-looking woman and Aguinaldo, then *capitan municipal* of Cavite Viejo (old Cavite), fell in love with her. She reciprocated his affection and they were married on January 1, 1869. She was 18 then.

She was not his first love, though, for he was smitten before by a certain Engracia or Asiang, the town beauty of Noveleta. Somehow, Aguinaldo did not marry her. In the case of Genova Tajonea of Lubang, an island north of Mindoro, whom he met in one of his trips to the south, she jilted him to marry a mestizo from Ambil island known as "Kikong Kastila." He was also romantically linked with a certain Rafaela Arquiza, who was said to have given birth to a son of his, named Esteban, in 1893.

Aguinaldo never told his wife of his being a Mason and a member of the militant Katipunan. She did not learn of his political affiliation until the outbreak of the revolution against Spain late in 1896.

Without hesitation, she joined him in his fight and shared the privations of war with him.

Hilaria was a good horseback rider. She put on a disguise to avoid enemy detection when she travelled. In the second phase of the revolution, she lost her second baby while eluding capture by American soldiers. She would eventually give Emilio five children.

Prior to the organization of a Filipino Red Cross, there had already been many cases of women who cared for the wounded during the Revolution. Among them was Crescenciana Sanches San Agustin de Santos, the first Filipino volunteer nurse who served in the war hospital in Imus, Cavite in 1896. Then there was Rizal's widow Josephine Bracken, who, with her sisters-in-law Josefa and Trinidad Rizal, caused the installation of a field hospital in Tejeros, San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias), Cavite. But it was not until a few days after the Filipino-American War erupted on February 4, 1899 that the idea for such a formal organization was hatched. On that day, amidst stirring applause, a group of Filipino ladies, headed by the wife of the President of the Republic, entered the town of Polo, Bulacan, bringing with them bandages, medicines, and food for the wounded. The ladies belonged to well-known families. There and then, it was decided that they band themselves into the Hijas de la Revolucion.

The constitution of the Hijas de la Revolucion was readily approved by the revolutionary government on February 17, 1899. Its name was changed, however, to Asociacion Nacional de la Cruz Roja (National Association of Red Cross). Like the revolutionary government, it had its headquarters in Malolos, Bulacan. Hilaria del Rosario-Aguinaldo was its president and Sabina Cruz Herrera, secretary. According to its constitution, members of this humanitarian organization must be of good reputation and not less than 14-years-old. Its officers, on the other hand, must be at least 25-years-old.

In only five months of its existence, the Asociacion Nacional de la Cruz Roja already had chapters in 13 provinces in Luzon. As soon as it was formed, each chapter began raising war funds and materials through benefit concerts, charity bazaars, voluntary contributions, and other means. In Vigan, Ilocos Sur, the recipients of the Asociacion's humanitarian activities were not only Filipino soldiers, but also Spanish and American prisoners.

For the fine work performed by its members, the Philippine Red Cross became the recipient of a diploma of gratitude from the King of Spain to the President of the Philippine Republic.

When the Filipino-American War was finally over, Mrs. Aguinaldo returned with her husband to their beloved Kawit, Cavite to raise their family and live the peaceful lives they had long missed. She was only 44 when she died on March 6, 1921.

Nine years later, General Aguinaldo married Maria Agoncillo of Taal, Batangas, niece of Felipe Agoncillo.

## SOFIO ALANDI

### Delegate to the Malolos Congress

**S**ofio Alandi received his legal education at the University of Santo Tomas. He was one of the lawyers who became a member of the Malolos Congress and, consequently, one of the signatories to the historic Malolos Constitution.

Immediately after Aguinaldo arrived in Cavite on May 19, 1898, he began setting up a revolutionary government. He issued three major decrees. The first one, on June 18, established a dictatorial government. The second, issued two days later, supplemented the first decree on matters of election. The third decree, dated June 23, abolished the dictatorial government and established the revolutionary Congress, which convened in Malolos, Bulacan.

The members of this Congress were either elected by the people, in areas controlled by the rebels, or appointed by Aguinaldo, in areas where fighting was still going on. Alandi, a member of Aguinaldo's council, was appointed to it in September 1898. He represented the province of Batangas. Before the year was over, the Congress already had 94 delegates, 35 of whom were elected. The Constitution it adopted was promulgated on January 21, 1899.

Alandi also served as provincial fiscal of Batangas and Mindoro.

GODOFREDO L. ALCASID  
(1909-1984)  
National Museum Director

1001-20-2436  
G odofredo L. Alcasid was born on January 13, 1909 in Calamba, Laguna. Although his family was not rich, he pursued his dream of being an educated man, first in his hometown, and then in Manila.

While studying in the city, he got a job as a helper in the Bureau of Science on April 27, 1931. Thus began his career in the government service.

In 1933, he successfully passed the civil service examination for museum assistant in zoology, with a rating of 75.13 percent. As a result, he was promoted to science assistant in 1934. He held on to that position until June 30, 1937. Due to his hard work and dedication, he was appointed museum assistant on July 1, 1937, staying on as such up to December 31, 1939.

Continuing his studies all along at the University of the Philippines, he finally earned his college degree, bachelor of science in zoology, in 1938.

On January 1, 1940, he transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, where he was designated assistant scientist. On March 15, 1949, he was appointed acting scientist at the National Museum.

Alcasid resigned from the government service in 1950, but due to his desire to go on serving the public, he accepted the position of instructor at the

Mindanao Agriculture College on July 1, 1954. He held this position until June 30, 1956, when he was offered another position with a higher salary at the Mindanao Institute of Technology. There he stayed on until October 31, 1957.

He returned to the National Museum as an ichthyologist, a zoologist concerned with the study of fishes, on November 1, 1957. He was promoted chief zoologist on July 1, 1958, a position he held up to June 30, 1966. After that, he was designated museum curator.

On April 27, 1970, he was appointed assistant director of the National Museum and finally, on June 26, 1971 - after 40 years of faithful public service, its director.

Alcasid wrote a number of scholarly papers which appeared in the *Philippine Journal of Science*, among which were: "New or Interesting Philippine Shells," "Philippine Recent Shells, Family Dolidae" (1936), "Two Species of Pinna New to the Philippines," and "Review of Philippine Strombidae," as well as two newspaper articles, entitled, "Field Guide to Philippine Mammals" and "Nesting Habits of some Resident Birds," and is the author of two books: *Checklist, Philippine Mammals* and *Terpsophone periophthalmica* in Mindoro.

He was a member-fellow of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, and served as Philippine delegate to the UNESCO Museum Seminar held in Tokyo, Japan in 1960.

Alcasid was married to the former Florentina Navarro, by whom he had six children, all of whom became professionals: Godofredo, Jr., B.S. agriculture, U.P., 1953; Eliseo, B.S. agriculture, U.P. 1954; Leticia, B.S.H.T., U.P., 1958; Romeo, veterinary medicine, U.P.; Cesar, nautical engineering, and Evelyn, nutrition science, U.P.

He died of a heart attack on November 2, 1984 in San Francisco, California, at the age of 75.

RAYMUNDO ALINDADA  
(1855-1928)  
Delegate to the Malolos Congress

**R**aymundo Alindada y Gaduang, a music teacher, schoolmaster, and member of the Malolos Congress, was born in Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya on March 15, 1855. His parents, Esteban Tomas Alindada and Rosa Gaduang, both from Bagabag, were relatively well-off, being landowners and farmers. They were able to send all their children to Manila for their studies.

In Manila, Alindada attended the school managed by Juan Evangelista. Afterwards, he enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, where he was a boarding student. He earned his tuition and allowance by working as a *pasante*, tutor, for the lower classmen of the college. He studied under the guidance of well-known teachers, such as Ramon Valdez, Blas Echegoyen, Antonio Garcia, Jose Muezo, and Simplicio Solis. Alindada then took up law at the University of the Philippines, graduating with a *licenciado en jurisprudencia*.

An avid student, Alindada also studied painting and suveying. He obtained *perito agrimensor* and *perito mecanico* certificates from the University of Santo Tomas in 1888.

As a musician, Alindada could play the piano, which was his favorite instrument, as well as the flute, the violin, and other string and wind musical

instruments. Along with his former mentors, Messrs. Muezo and Garcia, he became a music teacher in his alma mater, Letran. He taught piano, violin, and flute.

Alindada also composed his own musical pieces, which were later published. However, none of these works are extant today.

In 1891, he opened his own academic school on Lara Street in Intramuros, near the Recollect Church. It gained such a reputation for excellence that the then inspector of schools, Manuel Araullo, gave it the same rank as those run by eminent schoolmasters like Ignacio Villamor and Enrique Mendiola. When he moved his school to Binondo, Alindada took along with him his teachers, namely, Eusebio Orense, Apolinario Mabini, and Cayo Alzona. Some of the school's alumni were Manuel L. Quezon, Carlos Sobral, and the Imperial brothers - Francisco, Leoncio, and Carlos.

During the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, Alindada was appointed by Emilio Aguinaldo as a member of the Malolos Congress, representing the province of Isabela. He was one of the three educators in the Congress, the others being Graciano and Teodoro Sandiko. Afterwards, he was appointed by Aguinaldo as governor of Isabela.

When civil government was established in the country under the Americans, Alindada was reappointed to his gubernatorial post by Governor William Howard Taft. During his term, he exerted efforts to rehabilitate the province from the effects of the revolution and the Filipino-American War. Alindada later resigned the governorship to engage in the real estate and tobacco trading business.

Sometime in 1891, Alindada married Maria Jesus Velez y Uson, a daughter of Vicente Velez, a Spaniard, and Rufina Uson, who hailed from Pangasinan. From this marriage, he had four children, one of whom, Vicente, served for two terms as councilor of the city of Manila.

Alindada died on June 1, 1928.

TOMAS ALMONTE  
(1866- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**T**he first Philippine Assembly, of which Tomas Almonte was a member, was the prelude to the establishment of the semi-sovereign Philippine Commonwealth and the eventual independence of the Philippines. In it, Almonte, a lawyer, represented the first district of Albay.

Almonte was born on December 29, 1866, in San Antonio, Albay. He received his first education from his mother. He then entered the Seminary of Nueva Caceres at the age of 10, initially to study Latin, staying there up to 1885. He then took up law at the University of Sto. Tomas, graduating in 1893 with a licentiate in jurisprudence.

He practised law in Albay. He switched to agriculture, however, because his political beliefs did not go well with the Spanish masters in the colonial government.

Almonte served as *consejo de justicia* in Albay during the revolution. After the coming of the Americans, he resumed his private practice.

The election for the Philippine Assembly took place on July 1, 1907.

JOSE C. ALTAVAS  
(1877-1952)  
Assemblyman and Governor

A distinguished politician, Jose Altavas was born on September 11, 1877. He was the oldest of the four children of Jose Altavas y Aguilar and Andrea Cortes. His father was a native of Teruel City, Spain, while his mother hailed from Balete, Aklan.

He had his early education at the Ateneo Municipal in Manila, where he also obtained his bachelor of arts degree, with highest honors. At the Ateneo, he earned the title "emperador" for topping every examination and winning almost all the literary contests. Among his contemporaries were Norberto Romualdez, Rafael Palma, and Vicente Singson Encarnacion. He later enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas for a law course, but his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution. He enlisted in the troop of Major Santiago Bellosillo.

After the Filipino-American War, he resumed his studies at UST. He passed the bar examinations in 1901, then went home to Capiz to practice his profession.

Altavas started his political career as municipal councilor of Capiz. His stint as a member of the provincial board so impressed Capizeños that during the elections to the first Philippine Assembly in 1907, they voted for him as assemblyman representing the second district of the province. In the

Assembly, he served as chairman of the committee on rules.

In 1912, Altavas easily won the election for Capiz governor, a post he held for two consecutive terms until 1916.

With Francisco Villanueva of Iloilo, he was later elected senator of the seventh senatorial district, composed of Iloilo, Capiz, and Romblon. He won another senatorial term with Jose Ma. Arroyo. As senator, he was chairman of the committees on interior government, administration, and Justice.

Altavas represented Capiz as a delegate to the 1935 Constitutional Convention. He served as a member of its committees on suffrage and governments.

He was married to Socorro Laserna. He died in 1952.

FRANCISCO ALVAREZ  
(1852- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**F**rancisco Alvarez was born in Caramoan, Camarines Sur, on June 13, 1852.

After studying with a private tutor, he entered the Seminary of Nueva Caceres for his early formal education. Alvarez obtained his bachelor of arts degree at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran and his bachelor of laws degree at the University of Santo Tomas, in 1876.

He served as clerk as well as assistant notary public of the Court of First Instance of Camarines, municipal councilor, and justice of the peace of Lagonoy.

He was one of the founders of the newspaper *La Paz*.

Alvarez was a man of liberal ideas, for which reason he became the object of persecution by certain influential elements in his province. Obviously, his liberal ideas did not sit well with the conservative norms of his time.

In 1896, some powerful conservative politicians caused his deportation to Fernando Po, Africa, probably in connection with the snowballing Philippine revolution. He was kept there until the signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato between General Emilio Aguinaldo and the Spanish colonial govern-

ment.

Alvarez was a member of the provincial government of Ambos Camarines. He held the post of adviser on justice. He was also sub-director of the Seminary of La Union, which was then under the jurisdiction of Nueva Caceres, the provincial capital.

When the Americans came, he participated actively in the founding of the newspaper *La Paz*, which saw print until 1902. In 1903, he was convinced by the lawyers of the Supreme Court to resume his legal practice.

At the first Philippine Assembly, to which he was elected as a delegate in 1907, he represented the third district of Albay.

Somehow, it was believed that Alvarez was a priest. This was, of course, untrue. Although he entered the Seminary of Nueva Caceres intending to become a priest, he changed his mind later and studied to be a lawyer instead.

Classified according to professions or occupations, the membership of the Assembly consisted of 48 lawyers, 6 teachers, 6 agriculturists, 4 physicians, 4 merchants and agriculturists, 4 merchants and landowners, 2 pharmacists, 2 newspapermen, 2 landowners and agriculturists, and 1 merchant.

Alvarez was the only delegate absent during the inauguration of the Assembly.

The Assembly lasted until 1916.

VICENTE ALVAREZ  
(1862-1943)  
Zamboanga Revolutionary Leader

**T**he Philippine Revolution against Spain in 1896 to 1898 was not confined to Luzon and the Visayas. It also reached Mindanao. One of its greatest engagements took place in Zamboanga.

Among the leaders of the revolution in Mindanao was Vicente Alvarez.

Alvarez was born on April 5, 1862. He was the fifth son of Alejo Alvarez y Villasis and Isidora Solis. The closeness of his father to the then Spanish governor general, Ramon Blanco, enabled him to be appointed as *segundo oficial mayor* of Malacañang.

Alvarez made several trips to Mindanao and Sulu, where Spain had launched campaigns to pacify the Moros. He acquainted himself with the culture of the south. He gained the respect of the inhabitants, particularly the native chiefs, who conferred on him the rank of datu.

Alvarez witnessed not only the excesses perpetrated by the Spanish colonial government on the natives, especially its harsh policies of taxation and forced labor, but also its religious bigotry against the Moros. His desire to free the people of Mindanao from oppression led him to join the Katipunan, while on a visit to Manila. Upon his return to Zamboanga, he began organizing its local chapter, which gained many adherents.

When the revolution had flared up in Luzon, some Spanish forces were withdrawn from Mindanao to help quell the fighting. Taking advantage of the reduced Spanish military presence, Alvarez initiated the revolution in Zamboanga, in March 1898. He was able to take control of the peninsula, except the port of Zamboanga and Fort Pilar, which were heavily defended.

The success of his revolution in Mindanao prompted President Emilio Aguinaldo to appoint him to a committee of the revolutionary government to lead the provinces of Zamboanga and Basilan.

Alvarez' greatest feat was his daring capture of 13 Spanish gunboats on the night of April 7, 1899. The gunboats, which were part of the fleet commanded by Admiral Patricio Montojo, were anchored near Maloumolan in the Basilan Strait. Under the cover of darkness, Alvarez led 100 men on bancas and boarded the gunboats. After killing the Spanish officers, Alvarez sailed the captured vessels to the town of Mercedes, where they removed their cannons and placed them in Tetuan, in anticipation of an enemy counter-offensive which never took place.

On May 4, 1899, the revolutionary forces surrounded the port of Zamboanga and its fortress. Alvarez ordered the chief of staff of the Spanish forces, Colonel Victorio Oloriz, to surrender the port to him. When Colonel Oloriz refused, a bloody battle ensued, resulting in the death of a Spanish general, Gonzalez Monteiro. In recognition of his bravery, Aguinaldo conferred on Alvarez the rank of brigadier general.

For more than six months, Alvarez served as the supreme commander of the revolutionary government forces in Zamboanga. In 1900, he was approached by two of his friends, who were working as emissaries of the Americans, with an offer of P75,000 for his surrender as well as that of the revolutionary government. Rejecting the offer, he said to his friends: "Tell the Americans that Zamboanga will never surrender. Tell them too that Alvarez will resist to the last man!"

Forthwith the Americans launched military offensives against his forces. Alvarez was finally captured in the mountains of Aloran in Oroquieta, Misamis Oriental in March 1900. He was taken to Manila, where he remained a prisoner until he took his oath of allegiance to the United States on August 2, 1901.

Recognizing his value in persuading the inhabitants of Mindanao to accept American rule, Governor General William Howard Taft appointed Alvarez as chairman of the Committee on the Moro Provinces. On October

20, 1904, he was commissioned as an officer of the Philippine Constabulary. Later, he was appointed the first deputy governor of Dapitan and judge of the tribal wards.

Alvarez died on November 4, 1943 during the Japanese occupation at the age of 81.

JUAN E. ALVEAR  
(1864- ? )  
Educator, Assemblyman  
and Spiritualist

A native of San Fabian, Pangasinan, Juan Alvear was an educator and public servant who became better known as a spiritualist. He was born on July 20, 1864 to Domingo Alvear and Rosa Efre, who belonged to ordinary families in the town. He was an only child.

Alvear had his early education at the town's parish school. Later, he left for Manila to enrol at the University of Sto. Tomas. There he pursued theology, but afterwards shifted to law. However, he did not finish the course.

In 1894, at the age of 30, Alvear founded La Latinidad de Santa Cruz in Manila. It was a school that offered *segunda enseñanza* courses. He served as its director until the Revolution. In 1898, he was appointed director of Instituto Burgos, a subsidiary of the then newly established Universidad Literaria y Científica de Filipinas, located in Tarlac. Like the university, the institute, though, was short-lived.

In 1900, at the onset of American rule, Alvear became the first municipal president of San Fabian, Pangasinan. In 1905, when he was no longer municipal president, he founded the Colegio Jose Rizal in the town. The school lasted for 10 years.

In 1907, he was elected to the First Philippine Assembly, representing the third district of Pangasinan. He defeated Angel Unson, an Independent Party candidate. In 1910, he was elected governor of the province under the Nacionalista ticket, once again defeating Unson. His term brought a lot of improvements to Pangasinan, like the construction of Lingayen's provincial capitol, and roads and bridges as well as public school buildings in numerous towns. In 1915, he was appointed delegate administrator of the Department of Mindanao and Sulu, a position that gave him an active role in the pacification campaign in the south.

Alvear first gained his reputation as a spiritual leader in 1914, when he founded the Spiritual Church of Christ of the Philippines, which based its teaching on a spiritual interpretation of the Gospel. Its adherents practiced spiritual healing. This church claimed to have a membership of 200,000 in Alvear's lifetime.

From 1904 to 1918, Alvear authored several books on spiritualism, namely: *Ciencia Oculta* (Occult Science), *Sesia na Dios* (Faith in God), and *Doctrina Spiritista*. The last two were written in the Pangasinan dialect and were published later by Francisco Fernandez and Emilio Narag of San Fabian.

Alvear had his last post as a public servant in 1918, as a census enumerator. He held on to it for only a short period, however, for while he was in Manila, he contracted smallpox and developed a fever. He was taken to the Philippine General Hospital, where he died. He was buried in San Fabian.

Alvear was married twice. His first wife was Maria Pansacola, who hailed from Mauban, Tayabas (now Quezon province). They were married in 1889. It was a childless union. He re-married in 1910. His second wife, Maria Dispo, the daughter of Mariano Dispo and Gregoria Almasan, also of San Fabian, gave him two children - Esther and Bablasque Judith.

LEON APACIBLE  
(1861-1901)  
Patriot and Revolutionary

**L**eon Apacible was born on October 25, 1861, in Balayan, Batangas, a town famous for its fish paste, better known as “bagoong Balayan.” He was the second child of Vicente Apacible, a businessman, and Catalina Castillo, who belonged to a rich family.

Apacible had his first schooling in his hometown under his mother’s close supervision. For his secondary studies, his mother sent him to Manila, and was enrolled at the Jesuit-run Ateneo Municipal de Manila. There he met Jose Rizal as a fellow student. They were both of the same age, having been born in the same year, 1861. They, too, were distant relatives.

He and Rizal lodged at the house of the parents of Leonor Rivera, on Anda Street in Intramuros. Apacible’s brother Galicano had also stayed with the Riveras during his studies in Manila. His mother asked Rizal to be her second son’s adviser and guide.

Apacible proved to be an exceptionally bright student. Like Rizal, he also obtained the highest grade, *sobresaliente*, in all his subjects at the Ateneo. After finishing his secondary course, he moved to the University of Santo Tomas to take up law. As a law student, Apacible enjoyed certain privileges for being an *estudiante de facultad*, or a student of a professional course.

He was always well-dressed, sporting a walking-stick which was the fashion at the time. Handsome, jovial in nature, and full of self-confidence, he was frequently seen at social gatherings where the ladies belonging to the elite, including the married ones, fought for this attention. He was often mistaken for his brother Galicano, who was three years younger. Galicano later became one of the political figures in the revolutionary government as well as in the early American period, during which he co-founded the Nacionalista Party.

Despite his active social life, Apacible excelled in his studies at the university and completed his law course with distinction. He was 23 when he earned his licentiate in jurisprudence on August 25, 1886.

His academic achievement did his townmates proud, for while at the time many ambitious young men like him left their homes to pursue professional studies in Manila, very few returned with diplomas owing to the vigorous academic requirements.

Apacible practiced law in Batangas, with his colleagues looking up to him as a legal luminary. He also founded Masonry in the province. Later, he was appointed judge of the Court of First Instance of Batangas City.

Apacible married Matilde Martinez, of the nearby town of Taal, by whom he had three sons.

In 1892, the Spanish authorities suspected him of being the leader of *filibusteros*, or subversives, out to overthrow the colonial regime. His house in Taal had been the meeting place of Rizal, Mariano Ponce, and other Filipino reformers. He was arrested and deported by Governor General Eulogio Despujol, who had also deported Rizal to Dapitan. His place of exile was Lepanto, in what is now Bontoc in the Cordilleras, where he spent a lonely life among the Igorots. As a precautionary measure, the colonial government had issued orders for the arrest of anyone suspected of sympathizing with revolutionists or harboring others with liberal ideas. Apacible's brother Galicano was also closely watched because of his reformist activities while in Spain. However, there was no stopping the revolution against Spain, which broke out in 1896.

Released from exile after the signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, Apacible returned to Batangas. He joined the revolutionists, serving as an aide to General Miguel Malvar. With Filipino nationalism gaining remarkable strength, Spanish power in Batangas as well as in the rest of the country rapidly crumbled. Whole units of the Spanish army often surrendered after

just a skirmish or without a struggle at all. Apacible led a force of Filipino soldiers armed with only 20 old rifles but with plenty of bolos in capturing Batangas City in 1898.

That year, Emilio Aguinaldo, as President of the revolutionary republic, appointed him finance officer of Batangas. When the Malolos Congress was convened, he was appointed delegate representing Lepanto, Bontoc. He was one of the signers of the Constitution of the First Philippine Republic.

Apacible kept in close contact with his brother Galicano, who had been appointed secretary of natural resources and, later, as diplomat connected with the Hong Kong junta, which was involved in securing international recognition for the struggling Republic. Their correspondence became an important source of his biography. In one letter, Galicano wrote of his disillusionment with the way the Republic was being run, describing the majority of its officials as "incompetent, laggard, very slow in resolving important matters," and stressed: "The fate of the country depended very much on the kind of government she had... If this confusion continues and the government does not provide me with sufficient means, I am going to resign immediately in order not to be held responsible for failures due to the negligence of others." He urged his brother to take his family and all his funds abroad, adding that he would get him a post in the diplomatic corps if he wished. However, Leon chose to remain in the country.

After the Filipino-American War, Apacible spent the rest of his life in Taal, engaging in trading. He died in 1901, the year Aguinaldo was captured by the Americans, at the age of 40.

As a fitting tribute to this great man, a historical marker was installed in his house in Taal, Batangas by the National Historical Institute on October 25, 1970. Six years later, on December 6, 1976, his granddaughter, Mayor Corazon Caniza, donated Apacible's house in Taal, together with artifacts and documents, to the government. The house was restored by the National Historical Institute to serve as a memorial to Apacible.

MELCHOR P. AQUINO  
(1916-1994)  
Diplomat and Journalist

**B**orn in 1916, Melchor P. Aquino was a diplomat, writer, and newspaper man.

He was an alumnus of the La Union High School and the National Law College.

Aquino was a remnant of the press of the 1940's when the likes of Manuel Quezon and Sergio Osmeña dominated the Philippine political arena under the shadows of the Americans. In those days, Spanish was the medium of communication of the elite and, English, of the masses who attended public schools where American educators lorded it over.

As a reporter and, later, as editor of the *Evening News*, he hobnobbed with the prewar and postwar greats. For awhile, Aquino worked at the United Nations with General Carlos P. Romulo, helping him in research and in writing some of his speeches. His associate was another Ilocano journalist and writer, Salvador "S.P." Lopez, who later became president of the University of the Philippines.

In 1960, President Macapagal appointed Aquino as ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Germany's chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, became his friend, and so did Willy Brandt, another German postwar leader.

He also served as ambassador to Finland.

Aquino wrote as lucidly for the *Philippines Herald*, *Graphic*, and *Evening News* in English as he did in Spanish for *El Debate*. In fact, he remained to the last as executive director of the Grupo Hispanico.

His services in the United Nations included being secretary-general of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in Paris, France in 1948; chairman of the United Nations Commission on Petition; delegate to the First Conference of National United Nations Associations in Geneva, Switzerland, 1948; and member of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations, United Nations Commission on Human Rights, United Nations Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information, and Third Conference of the United Nations General Assembly.

He also served as a member of the Philippine delegation to the Far Eastern Commission; press attaché at the Philippine embassy, Washington D.C.; and Philippine representative to the Conference on Freedom of Information in Uruguay, 1950.

Among the honors Aquino received as a diplomat were the Grand Cross and Medal of Merit awards from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Daimler Benz award.

As a postwar journalist, Aquino was a political writer and columnist of such newspapers and magazines as *Midweek*, *Monday Mail*, *Graphic*, *Evening News*, and *El Debate*. He was also connected with the Interco Press and the Asian News and Features. As a broadcast journalist, he conducted commentaries over radio stations DZBB and DZRH and TV Channel 13.

Aquino died on April 13, 1994.

At the time of his death, he was presidential consultant on foreign affairs and a columnist of the *Manila Bulletin*.

MARIANO ARAÑA  
(D. 1897)  
Revolutionary Patriot from Bicol

Together with Ramon Abella, Mariano Araña was one of the two men from the Bicol region who were exiled to the prison island of Fernando Po for their suspected complicity in the revolution against Spain in 1896.

Araña was a rich landowner in Daet, Camarines Norte. He engaged in farming and trading. Like other Filipinos with rising economic and social status and who were, to boot, well educated and progressive - and they included members of the secular clergy, he incurred the envy of conservative Spaniards who regarded the likes of him as threats to their authority and privileges. The outbreak of the revolution provided the excuse for their persecution. Upon his arrest, his property were seized by the authorities.

There was no evidence that Araña was named in the alleged confession of Vicente Lukban, a Mason who was said to have implicated six persons, including Manuel Abella, Tomas Prieto, and Fathers Severino Diaz and Inocencio Herrera, as members or supporters of the Katipunan. Nor was his brother, Fr. Gabriel Prieto, the parish priest of Malinao, Albay. Nevertheless, he and the others were hauled off to the prison in Nueva Caceres. There, the local friars joined in their public humiliation through beatings and tortures.

On September 20, Araña, together with other prisoners, were sent to Manila on the steamer *Isarog*. They were detained at the Bilibid Prison,

where they were given more beatings and tortured. On December 29, Araña and 13 others consisting of Fathers Inocencio Herrera, Gabriel Prieto, and Severino Diaz, Manuel Abella, his sons Domingo and Ramon, Florencio Lerma, Camilo Jacob, Macario Valentin, Cornelio Mercado, Mariano Melgarejo, and Mariano Ordenanza, faced a military court for the crimes of rebellion and sedition.

Of the detainees, 11 were sentenced to die by firing squad. One was sentenced to serve 20 years imprisonment. Araña and his co-defendant, Ramon Abella, were ordered exiled to Fernando Po Island, off West Africa.

Even while aboard ship, Araña and Abella endured the harshest treatment in the hands of their guards. According to a prisoner who survived a similar ordeal, they were manacled to the floor of the ship's hold, thus preventing them from standing up. Everyday, they were beaten with hard sticks, iron rods, or rifle butts. The air in the hold which was near the ship's boiler was choked with heat and coal dust.

Upon arrival in Barcelona, Araña and the other prisoners were taken aboard another ship which took them to Fernando Po. There, the prison commander gave them a grim reminder:

"You well know that you have been deported here and placed in my power by the Spanish government to die, be whipped, shot and crushed like serpents, as it is the most fitting penalty for traitors to the country. The first of you who provoke a disturbance in the colony will be shot and thrown to the sea in four hours."

With the rest of the prisoners, Araña was forced to sleep on the bare stone floor. The weather on the island was cold and foggy, and the prisoners were not given any bedding to protect their bodies. For their meals, they were each served a niggardly plate of rice, some condensed milk, and a rancid piece of bacon.

Because of the harsh treatment of the prisoners, Araña is said to have died during his detention on the island in 1897 or 1898.

TOMAS AREJOLA  
(1866-1926)  
Propagandist and Legislator

One of the propagandists of the Filipino reform movement in Spain, Tomas Arejola y Padilla was a lawyer, diplomat, and member of the first and second Philippine assemblies.

He was born to the well-to-do family of Antonio Arejola and Emeteria Padilla on September 18, 1866 in Nueva Caceres, Ambos Camarines, now the city of Naga in Camarines Sur. His father was an official who served in various positions in the colonial government.

Arejola studied at the Seminario de Nueva Caceres. With a *bachiller en artes* degree, he proceeded to Manila and enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, where he obtained a *perito agronomo* certificate. Afterwards he took up law at the University of Santo Tomas, but did not finish the course there. He sailed to Spain in August 1888, earning his law degree later at the Universidad Central de Madrid.

While in Spain, Arejola joined the Asociacion Hispano Filipino, which was established on June 12, 1889 by Miguel Morayta. Made to appear as a mutual aid and recreational club, it was actually used by the Filipino exiles, however, as a vehicle to promote political reforms in the Philippines. Arejola headed its sports section and, Mariano Ponce, its literary section. The head of the political section was Marcelo H. del Pilar. The Association was

responsible for securing the Maura Law in 1893.

The Asociacion was succeeded by the Circulo Hispano Filipino, which Arejola founded. He became its first president and, Mariano Ponce, its secretary.

Arejola served in the Propaganda Movement writing nationalistic articles, delivering speeches on various occasions, distributing political literature, and heading a committee. According to historian Manuel Artigas y Cuerva in his book, *Galeria de Filipinos Ilustres*, he was the author of the pamphlet, "A La Nacion: Manifiesto - Programa de la Colonia Filipina Reformista Residente en Madrid," which was published on February 19, 1898. His name appears on top of 12 others in the pamphlet, which demanded reforms for 14 aspects of Spanish rule in the Philippines. Many of his writings found their way in such Spanish publications as *El Pais*, *El Progreso*, *La Correspondencia de España*, *La Publicidad*, and *El Heraldo de Madrid*, aside from the movement's *La Solidaridad* and *Filipinas Ante Europa*, from 1888 to 1901.

Among the speeches Arejola delivered was the one praising Miguel Becera, the Spanish overseas minister, in December 1892, on the occasion of the promulgation of the royal order making the teaching of the Spanish language compulsory in all public schools in the Philippines. The year before, he fiercely denounced the abuses and atrocities of the Spanish colonial government under Governor-General Valeriano Weyler on the farmers of Calamba, including the family and relatives of Rizal who were deported to various parts of the country. On October 20, 1892, Arejola gave another fiery speech, at the International Congress of Newspapermen in Barcelona, exposing to the world the problems of the Philippines chafing under the yoke of Spanish rule and reiterating his desire for reforms to be instituted in the country. He also spoke at numerous meetings organized by the Asosacion Hispano-Filipino to advance Filipino interests.

When the Philippine Revolution broke out in August 1896, Arejola was implicated in it and was imprisoned at the Carcel Modelo in Madrid, along with six members of the Circulo Hispano Filipino and the Masonic lodge Gran Oriente. In the Philippines, his father Antonio was arrested for sedition and was deported to Fernando Po Island off the coast of West Africa.

Arejola was released from prison when the Spanish government could not provide sufficient proof of his role in the revolution. He crossed the border into Portugal and lived in Lisbon to avoid persecution by his Spanish accusers. He returned to Madrid after eight months.

In 1897, he formed the Filipino Republican Committee, serving as its president. Other officials of the group were Isauro Gabaldon, secretary; Felix de Leon, counselor, and Isabelo delos Reyes, chronicler. The members included Dominador Gomez, Vicente Ilustre, and Jose Rodriguez.

When the Treaty of Paris was being negotiated between the United States and Spain during the last months of 1898, Arejola cooperated with the Philippine Mission headed by Felipe Agoncillo. He had numerous contacts and correspondences with Filipinos in the mission's effort to gain international recognition of Philippine independence and to frustrate the American plan of acquiring the Philippines from Spain.

Arejola was appointed to the Malolos Congress, representing his home province of Ambos Camarines, but he remained in Spain and was not able to participate in its sessions. Somehow, however, his name appeared as one of the signatories to the Malolos Constitution, which was approved by the Congress on January 22, 1899.

The failure of the Philippine Mission to thwart the cession of the Philippines from Spain to the US left Arejola fending for himself in Spain. He was able to return to the Philippines only through the help of the Marquise of Villalobos.

Upon his arrival in Singapore, he helped organize a Filipino propaganda committee on the island, then proceeded to Hong Kong to link up with the Central Revolutionary Committee, also known as the Hong Kong Junta, under Galicano Apacible, its president, and Cayetano Lukban, its secretary. While focusing its work on seeking international recognition of the Philippine Republic, then fighting the Americans, the committee also served as a diplomatic station and listening post as well as an agency and conduit for procuring arms and other supplies for the revolutionary government. Arejola was a member of it until 1902.

Arejola worked with Mariano Ponce in Japan from 1902 to 1906, when he finally returned to the country. While in Japan, he was instrumental in having a number of Filipinos enter Japanese imperial colleges. Among those he helped were Leopoldo Aguinaldo, Emilio Cuyugan, Jose delos Reyes, and Marcelino Ocampo of Manila; Federico Barrera, Rafael Ramos, and a certain Villamor, Tarlac; Aniceto Caluen, Ilocos; Fidel Soliven and Agustin Villamor, Abra; Simon Montinola, Iloilo, and Pedro Lakkbayan of Negros Occidental.

With the Philippines firmly under American control, the Filipinos'

struggle for better social conditions and national independence shifted to the political arena. Arejola joined the Nacionalista Party, and was assigned to build the party machinery in the Bicol region. When the NP was reorganized in time for the election for the First Philippine Assembly under the Cooper Act, or the Philippine Autonomy Law, he formed 39 local committees of the party in the 39 towns of the Camarines provinces, apart from 14 local committees in Albay. He reaped the fruit of his hard work when he was elected assemblyman for the first district of Ambos Camarines, besting Francisco Eco, who ran as an independent. In the legislature, Arejola served as chairman of the committee on public works, forest and mines, and as a member of the committee on navigation, railroads and franchises. He also authored seven laws.

Arejola can lay claim to being one of the fathers of the National Library. Sometime in 1908, together with a fellow assemblyman, Pedro A. Paterno, he was approached by historian and encyclopedist Manuel Artigas, who told him of his idea of establishing a national library. The two legislators worked together and came out with a bill, which became the Philippine Public Library Act, on June 3 of that year.

In 1909, Arejola was reelected as an assemblyman. He served as chairman of the legislature's committee on style and printing and as a member of a number of minor committees, and wrote 13 laws. In both of his terms, he was a member of the permanent committee, and was one of those responsible for sponsoring laws mandating the formation of new municipalities all over the country.

When the Senate was created under the Jones Law in 1916, Arejola ran as a candidate for senator representing the sixth senatorial district, and was elected. However, he was not able to savor his victory as the poll results were annulled due to irregularities. He then retired from politics.

Arejola was married to Mercedes Caldera y Olarte, the daughter of a Spanish Army surgeon, Dr. Bibiano Caldera, and Rufina Olarte. The couple were childless.

Arejola died in May 1926 at the age of 59.

PEDRO AUNARIO  
(1878-1945)  
Journalist and Assemblyman

Pedro Aunario was born in Manila on June 29, 1878. His parents were Hugo Aunario and Maximiana Rivero.

He began his journalistic career as a reporter of such Spanish newspapers as *La Patria*, *La Aurora*, *La Fraternidad*, *La Democracia*, and *El Renacimiento*. In 1926, he became associate editor of *La Vanguardia*. He continued to write for *Renacimiento Filipino*, *Cultura Filipina*, *Philippine Review*, and *The Citizen*. He also served as correspondent of the Royal Spanish American Academy.

In 1916, Aunario was elected as a member of the Philippine Assembly, representing the Mountain Province. He was reelected in 1923. In 1919, he served as a member of the Philippine Independence Mission led by Manuel L. Quezon, who was then president of the Philippine Senate.

A fearless and principled writer. Aunario was aghast at the practice of some journalists who allowed themselves to be used by powerful persons. In a series of candid editorials which he called "Oracion del Periodista" (The Journalist's Prayer), he reminded his colleagues of the ethics of the profession and enjoined them to be true to their calling and responsibilities. He exposed anomalies in the government and wrote biting editorials denouncing them.

In his essays, *Los Pugnos de Lenguas* (The Fight of Languages), which

were serialized in *La Vanguardia* in 1938-1940, Aunario proposed that the literary treasures of the world be made available to the masses through the establishment of an Academy of Foreign Languages. As a collection, these writings won for him the Commonwealth Literary Award.

Aunario was awarded the Premio Zobel in 1934 for his first compilation of journalistic articles, entitled *El Yunque Cotidano* (On the Daily Anvil).

He was married to Cristina Maglaque, by whom he had 11 children. He died on January 27, 1945.

ANSELMO AVANCEÑA  
(1809-1882)  
Charity Worker and Religious Writer

Clergyman and religious writer, Anselmo Avanceña was born in Arevalo, Iloilo on July 27, 1809 to rich parents who were well-known farmers and merchants of Molo. He received his early education in Jaro, then entered the Real Colegio Seminario Conciliar of Cebu to prepare himself for the priesthood. He was ordained in December 1833 at the age of 24.

Father Avanceña served as *vice-rector* and *notario mayor* of the *juzgado provisional* of the bishopric, as well as *capellan de solio*, secretary to Bishop Romualdo Ximeno, chaplain of the Santisimo Rosario Church of Fort San Pedro in Cebu, and as ecclesiastical censor. Fr. Jose Ma. Pavon's *Catecismo sang Doctrina Cristiana* (1886) was one of the works that passed through his *censura*, dated August 14, 1864.

Avanceña was named parochial priest of Arevalo, Iloilo on August 20, 1864 by Bishop Ximeno, who also made him ecclesiastical judge and *vicar foraneo* of the secular clergy of Iloilo from 1864 to 1868. On May 20, 1868, he was appointed by Bishop Mariano Cuartero y Medina as *juez provisor* and vicar general of the bishopric, apart from *juez de testamento*, *de capellanes y de obras pias*.

Avanceña's activities were not confined to religious matters. Together

with his nieces, Jovita and Ramona Avanceña, he founded a school for girls known as the Santa Ana College. He was also credited with the establishment of a house of charity for the poor and the sick in Cebu. Like a social worker, he went around in the barrios and organized pious auxiliaries for the spiritual needs as well as the health care of the people. He likewise initiated the construction of a stone cemetery with a chapel in Cebu. In 1882, while helping the victims of a cholera epidemic, he contracted the disease himself and died that same year.

Father Avanceña wrote the following religious works: "Novena Sa Señor Sto. Niño" (Manila: Col. de Sto. Tomas, 1867), 15 pages; "Novena Sang Mahimayaon, cag Palamilagro nga San Antonio de Padua" (Manila: Sto. Tomas, 1869), 45 pages; "Novena sa Mga Kalag Sa Purgatorio" (Manila: Imp. de Santo Tomas, 1870), 16 pages; "Novena Sang Santos nga Tuud ng Casing-Casing Ni Jesus" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1876), 93 pages; "Sacrificio o Maayo Nga Pagsimba Sang Cristianos" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1881), 160 pages; "Semana Ni Maria Con Pag-devocion Sa Mahal Nga Virgen Sa Pag-dangat Sing Isa Sa Camatayon" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1881), 39 pages; "Novena Sa Halangdon Nga Tuud Nga Santisima Trinidad" (Manila: 1882); "Novena Sang Mahal Nga Virgen Sa Rosario" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1882), 32 pages; "Novena Ni Señor San Roque" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1882), 16 pages; "Pag-duao Sa Santisimo Sacramento Sa Altar, Cagsa Mahal Nga Virgen" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1882), 208 pages; "Pagtolonan sa Mayo nga Pagconfesar, cag Pagcalawat Sang mga cabataan subong man sang mga Dalagcu na nga dilipa Mahibalo Magconfesar cag Magcalawat, nga Guintucud sa Concilio Romano Sang Tuig Nga 1725 ang Santo Papa nga si Benedicto XIII (1882); "Vida Ni San Alejo Confesor anac ni DEufeminiano Cag ni Da Aglais Sa Imperiong Roma" (1883); and "Novena Sang Mahimayaon cag Bantog nga Maria Santa Filomena" (Manila: Amigos del Pais, 1883), 31 pages.

MAURICIO BALBINO  
(1823-1892)  
Pre-Revolution Reformist

A merchant by trade but a political reformist at heart, Mauricio Balbino was born to a rich family in Kawit, Cavite.

It is conceivable that he had his elementary education in his native town and his high school education in Manila, for this was the practice of the upper Filipino class at the time. It is known, though, that he took up law at the University of Santo Tomas but did not finish it, since he paid more attention to business matters than to his studies. The happy result, however, was that he doubled his inherited riches.

Meanwhile, wave upon wave of political turmoil was wreaking havoc in Spain. The social situation there created a vacuum that necessitated reforms, the clamor for which found sympathetic voices in the Philippines. The liberal movement that gained strength in Spain drew active support among Filipinos, whose ranks grew in number. They included Balbino Mauricio, Enrique Paraiso, and Lamadrid. Among the secular priests, Fr. Mariano Gomez was specifically mentioned.

In the aftermath of the Cavite mutiny in 1872, the nascent libertarian movement in the country suffered a setback. Really a kind of protest of some disgruntled Filipino military officers, it resulted not only in the arrests of

known and suspected participants, but also in widespread persecution of Filipino liberals and reformers. Priests and intellectuals were imprisoned. Father Gomez, along with Fathers Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora, was garroted. More than 150 other people, including workers in the Cavite Yard, were exiled.

Together with Antonio Ma. Regidor and others, Balbino was deported to the small island of Guam. However, he and Regidor escaped on an American ship and went to Yap Island. From there they boarded an English ship that sailed to the Solomon Island and then to Palau Island. Afterwards, they boarded another English vessel that took them to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, Balbino had to work for a living since he left his riches in the Philippines. He visited Amoy and Japan looking for job opportunities. It is said that despite the hardships he experienced in foreign lands, he remained hopeful that the Philippines would eventually have its long overdue reforms.

He died in 1892.

JOAQUIN BALMORI  
(1877-1941)  
Pioneer Labor Leader

Joaquin Balmori was born on July 6, 1877 and grew up in Manila. He was one of the eight children of Juan Balmori and Pantaleona Rivera of Bacolor, Pampanga. He studied at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and Escuela de Artes y Oficios.

Founder of the Federation del Trabajo de Filipinas and co-founder of La Union Obrera Democratica and La Union del Trabajo, Balmori was an indefatigable labor organizer credited with setting up 11 trade unions. He worked hard to protect the rights and interests of workers against the abuses of anti-union employers, and sought higher wages and better working conditions for them. As a result, labor unions won the acceptance and gained the respect of capitalists, government authorities, and the public in general.

During the Commonwealth regime, his firm devotion to the cause of progressive labor was tested when then President Manuel L. Quezon offered him the position of director for labor, to succeed Hermenegildo Cruz. He declined the offer, choosing to work for trade unionism on the side of his fellow workers instead. Quezon couldn't but admire his sincerity. It was on Balmori's recommendation that Quezon appointed Jose Figueras as commissioner for labor in Hawaii.

Balmori was president of the Federacion del Trabajo de Filipinas, a

position he had held since its founding, when he died at the age of 64 on December 2, 1941.

Balmori was married to Rosario Gonzales, by whom he had 20 children. A daughter, Guia, became a prewar Miss Philippines. Another daughter, Pilar Balmori-Ramirez, succeeded Balmori as president of the Federacion.

SANTIAGO BARCELONA  
(1863-1937)  
Aguinaldo's Personal Physician

**S**antiago Barcelona was a physician who became a member of the Malolos Congress and one of the signers of the Malolos Constitution. He was born on May 23, 1863 in Pulilan, Bulacan. Although his parents, Eugenio Barcelona and Felipa delos Reyes, were well off, he had to work in the household of Marcelino de Santos, a teacher, so he could study in Manila.

De Santos was a kind and benevolent master. He taught the young Barcelona Spanish during the day. At night, Barcelona was off to his classes at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

After finishing his bachelor of arts degree, Barcelona took up medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. However, the death of his mother and his father's remarriage, which added five half-brothers and half-sisters to the family he helped maintain, aggravated his financial burden as a medical student.

In 1889, De Santos decided to have his eldest son study in Spain, at the Universidad Central de Madrid, and asked Barcelona to accompany him. Upon arriving in the peninsula, Barcelona himself enrolled at the Universidad de Barcelona, where he continued his medical studies. He earned his licentiate in medicine two years later. However, he could not return to the

Philippines immediately as he had to wait for De Santos' son to finish his own studies. Barcelona seized the opportunity to travel to other European countries in the meantime, working as a tutor to children of Filipino families in those places to earn his keep.

After De Santos' son completed his studies in 1894, Barcelona returned to Manila with his ward. He built a house in Tondo, where he opened a clinic. When the revolution broke out in 1896, De Santos and his family were arrested and imprisoned by the Spaniards on suspicion of complicity with the revolutionary movement. After their release, they fled to Singapore, where they remained for six months. They returned to Manila only after the city had fallen to the hands of the Americans in August 1898.

At this time, Dr. Barcelona had cast his lot with the revolutionary republic under President Emilio Aguinaldo, and relocated to Malolos. Aguinaldo appointed him as a member of the Malolos Congress, representing Butuan. He became one of the signers of the Constitution of the First Philippine Republic.

When Malolos fell to the enemy during the Filipino-American War, Barcelona accompanied Aguinaldo who, with his dwindling army, was forced to move the Republic's capital to Cabanatuan, Tarlac, and, lastly, Bayambang in Pangasinan. After conferring with Generals Artemio Ricarte and Jose Alejandrino and other military leaders, Aguinaldo decided that henceforth, they would carry on the fight with the Americans through guerrilla warfare.

As the President's personal physician and treasurer of the revolutionary government, Barcelona became very close to Aguinaldo. They were almost inseparable.

On November 15, 1899, Aguinaldo and his party began the northward trek through the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, and Ilocos Sur, then over the Cordillera Mountains. They entered the Cagayan Valley in May 1900. It was during the trip across the mountains that Barcelona was appointed chief of the health department of the fugitive government.

Aguinaldo and his party moved around a lot in the various towns, but often in disguise, so spies could not report their presence to the Americans. Aguinaldo posed as Barcelona's secretary and, being younger than the doctor, assumed the name "Lieutenant Esteban." Barcelona himself took the name "Captain Santos Baltazar." Another member of Aguinaldo's staff, Simeon Villa, also a physician, was "Señor Alvaro." The two doctors also had

to change their names since the Americans knew that they were the President's constant companions.

Marching further on, the group reached Palanan, Isabela on September 6, 1900. Finding the town defensible and its inhabitants friendly, they remained there for some time, the tracks of the wily Filipino leader seemingly lost to the pursuing Americans. Out there, the Republic was practically a government-in-exile in its own territory.

The Americans finally located Aguinaldo after they captured his messenger, Cecilio Segismundo, who revealed his hideout. Under the command of Colonel Frederick Funston, they finally captured him and his party on March 23, 1901. The Americans were aided by their Macabebe collaborators.

Aguinaldo was startled by the sudden appearance of his pursuers. Dr. Barcelona had to hug him to prevent him from drawing his revolver, using his own body at the same time to shield his chief from the bullets of the treacherous Macabebe scouts. In the now-famous words, he reminded Aguinaldo: "My General, you owe it to our people to continue fighting for freedom. Don't sacrifice yourself. The country needs your life." The Macabebes, who considered Aguinaldo as their worst enemy, vented their fury by hitting him and Barcelona with the butts of their guns.

Aguinaldo and his staff, including Barcelona, were taken to Manila. Shortly thereafter, in May 1901, they took their oath of allegiance to the United States.

After his release, Barcelona married the youngest daughter of his patron and mentor, Marcelino de Santos, in July 1901. Governor-General William Howard Taft offered him the position of secretary of public health, but he refused, preferring instead to resume his private medical practice.

In 1915, however, he returned to public life as an active member of the Nacionalista Party. In the congressional elections the following year, he ran as a candidate in Manila's north district, but was defeated. After his bitter experience in politics, he again returned to private life, this time permanently.

Dr. Barcelona died in March 1937 at the age of 74. He left behind his wife and two sons, Jose S. Barcelona, who became a director of the Philippine General Hospital, and Jaime S. Barcelona.

In 1952, he received a posthumous award as a distinguished specialist in gynecology.

ENRIQUE M. BARRETTO DE YCAZA  
(1850-1919)  
Founder of San Miguel Brewery

**E**nrique Barretto was born to rich parents in San Miguel, Manila in 1850. He is said to have studied in London, taking up commerce.

In 1875, he was appointed consul of Italy, based in Manila.

In 1885, Barretto established the first ice factory in the Philippines, the Fabrica de Hielo de Manila, which was located on the southern bank of the Pasig River, across the Quiapo Church. In 1890, he established the Fabrica de Cerveza de San Miguel, the forerunner of San Miguel Corporation, the largest corporation in the Philippines today. It was located beside the Malacañang Palace in the San Miguel district.

The two establishments became familiar landmarks in the city, with the ice plant assuming a special function for Manilans.

Housed in an imposing red brick building, the ice plant served as the "clock" of Manila. It blew a booming one-minute whistle three times a day - at seven in the morning, at noon, and at four in the afternoon. The regular blasts could be heard all over the city. Manilans learned to depend on the plant for telling time. The ice plant, which also blew a loud whistle for one hour at the first hour of every new year, survived the widespread destruction of the southern part of Manila during the Second World War. However,

it was demolished in the early 1980's to give way to the construction of the Light Rail Transit System.

The beer plant, on the other hand, became world-famous for its principal product, San Miguel beer. Under the leadership of Barretto's successors, specially Andres Soriano Sr., it diversified its operations to make other well-known products. It was a highly profitable venture. Its main stockholders, among them Margarita Roxas de Ayala, engaged in philanthropic works, like establishing the La Concordia College for poor girls and the San Jose Asylum.

Barretto served as the *teniente alcalde* of Manila in 1898.

For his achievements as a businessman and a diplomat, Barretto was decorated by Spain, Portugal, and Italy.

He died in 1919.

JOSE E. BASA  
(1843-1912)  
Delegate to Malolos Congress

A noted lawyer, jurist, reformer, educator, and patriot, Jose Basa was born on August 16, 1843, the son of Francisco Basa, a shipbuilder employed in the Cavite arsenal, and Felipa Enriquez, a business-woman.

Basa obtained his early education in his hometown. he continued his studies at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila, then he moved on to the University of Santo Tomas, where he obtained his *bachiller en filosofia* degree in 1866 and his *licenciado en jurisprudencia* degree in 1870. He was one of the first lawyers of Cavite.

A popular legal practitioner, Basa became *promotor fiscal* of the province. In 1886 he was named judge of the Court of First Instance of Cavite, a position few Filipinos occupied at the time. He later opened a school of *segunda enseñanza* in San Roque, then a municipality of Cavite, offering two years of instruction. Among his students were Emilio Aguinaldo, Joaquin Uriano, Daniel Tirona, Baldomero Aguinaldo, and Leonardo Osorio. These men would become famous for their participation in the revolution.

However, he somehow got embroiled in the Cavite mutiny of 1872 and was deported to Guam, along with a large batch of lawyers, secular priests, and businessmen. Some of his co-exiles later escaped from the island and

sailed to Spain, where they were pardoned by a royal decree. His own banishment would have lasted eight years if not for the royal order of November 23, 1874. He and the others were pardoned but barred from ever setting foot on the Philippines again.

Basa first went to Hongkong, but in 1876, he returned to the Philippines and resumed his law practice in Cavite.

In 1892, he got involved in the case of Jose Rizal and was exiled again, this time to Davao, with Hugo Ilagan. he was taken there on the boat with Rizal. However, they were not allowed to communicate with each other. Two years later, Basa was pardoned.

During the revolution, he was elected delegate to the Malolos Congress, along with Ilagan, in 1898. He retained this position even after the seat of the national government was transferred to Tarlac in 1899. On September 26, 1898, he was appointed by Emilio Aguinaldo as director of justice of the central government.

Basa was one of the first Filipinos to accept government appointments from the Americans after the Filipino-American war. In 1899, he was judge of the Court of First Instance, based in Intramuros, Manila. He served as such until 1901. He had joined the Federal Party in 1900, and was allowed to practice law after taking the oath of allegiance to the American flag. Because of his legal erudition, he was appointed chairman of the bar examining committee in September 1902, succeeding Pedro Concepcion, who had resigned.

Basa was a good chess player and an ardent cockfighting aficionado. He wrote two primers on the subjects: "Instruccion sobre ahedres" and "Reglamento de Galleras expliado y comentado, con formulario, cursos practicos, Deficiones Technicas e Indice Alfabetico" (1894). Only the second one was published, though. He also wrote "Consejos a los Niños Grandes", a work on citizenship. It was printed in Hongkong in 1910. His "La Revolucion de 1872" went unpublished.

Basa was twice married, first to Mamerta Alberto who bore him seven children namely Felisa, Asuncion, Catalina, Ramon, Justo, Engracia, and Paz. His second wife was Asuncion San Agustin of Cavite. She bore him four children, namely Socorro Natividad, Rosario, and Beatriz.

He died on May 7, 1912.

# HERMOGENES BAUTISTA

(1866-1917)

Revolutionary Leader

**H**ermogenes Bautista was born on April 19, 1866 in Bayanbayanan, Marikina, Rizal (then known as Morong). He was fifth of the 12 children of Isidro Bautista and Ines de los Santos. His father was a farmer and leasee at the Tuazon hacienda, while his mother maintained a *tindahang-bayan*.

He studied for a while in the public school of Marikina. Not being a bright student, he soon dropped out of school. He chose to work as a *cochero*, plying the routes of Marikina, San Mateo, and Pasig. Occasionally, he engaged in farming.

At the age of 18, he was enlisted into the infantry of the Spanish army. He served there for three years, fighting against the Moros. At the end of his service, he returned to Manila. He joined the city's *veterana*, or police force. For defending some Filipino women in Balintawak whom Spanish soldiers had tried to abuse, he was imprisoned. After two years in the police service, he was drafted into the civil guards, and was assigned to different towns. In March of 1896, he completed his service at Kingwa (now Plaridel) in Bulacan province.

Bautista became a revolutionary general. His Katipunan activities began in Marikina, where he organized a local Katipunan branch. When the

revolution broke out in 1896, Katipunan members who were residents of Marikina met in Pantayanan and then chose Bautista to lead their group.

On September 28 of that year, local leaders Andres Eustaquio, Leoncio Bautista, Jose Eustaquio, Arcadio Sanvictores, and Tomas Medina met at the Masuyod headquarters and agreed to join all their forces under one command, that of Bautista. Bautista then joined his forces with those of Bonifacio and others in the attack on San Mateo.

After his surrender, Bautista devoted his life to agriculture. He worked the forest land that he occupied in Marikina. Later, he became a dealer in horses, which he bought in Tayabas, Batangas, and Laguna and then sold in Manila. This brought him good financial returns, and enabled him to establish a *karomata* garage in Sta. Ana and, later, in San Juan.

Bautista died on October 17, 1917. His wife, the former Cornelia Eustequio, whom he wed in December 1897, continued his *karomata* business since they had no children.

Bautista's brothers Leonicio, Felix, and Pedro also served in the revolution.

FRANCISCA TIRONA-BENITEZ  
(1886-1974)  
Eminent Educator

**F**rancisca Tirona-Benitez was an eminent educator.

She was born in Imus, Cavite on June 4, 1886. She came from a lineage of eminent Filipinos. Her parents, Guillermo Tirona and Jacoba Paredes, were both highly respected teachers. Her grandfather, Ildefonso Tirona, was a *gobernadorcillo* of Imus, Cavite.

She had her early education at the public elementary school for girls in Imus and at the Escuela Catolica in Manila. After attending the Cavite High School, she enrolled in 1903 at the Philippine Normal School, where she graduated salutatorian. The class valedictorian then was Conrado Benitez, her ardent suitor whom she married on August 3, 1912.

Her first teaching experience was at the Manila High School. She taught next at the Sampaloc Elementary School. On her second year of teaching, she was assigned assistant superintendent at the Philippine Normal School. Its superintendent was the American Mary Coleman. At the same time, she became the first Filipino teacher in domestic science at the school.

Mrs. Benitez was one of the founders of the Philippine Women's College, now a university, which was originally located on A. Flores Street in Ermita, Manila. On June 9, 1919, it began admitting enrollees, from

kindergarten up to third year high school. The medium of instruction was English, and most of the administrators and teachers were women. Benitez was elected as its president in 1920.

Under her stewardship, the school - through the help of Manila's Archbishop Michael O' Doherty - was able to secure the lot where its new building would later be erected. A loan from the Manila Building and Loan Association provided the funds for the construction of the building, a three-storey structure.

In 1926, the college transferred from A. Flores Street to its new site on Taft Avenue. In 1932, the college - renamed Philippine Women's University - became the first such institution of higher learning for women in Asia, established by Asians.

Benitez was appointed by President Laurel as head of the Women's Bureau during the Japanese occupation. During this period, she devoted most of her time to helping the needy and the unfortunate victims of the war. After the war, she was back at the Philippine Women's University, as its president. She served as such continuously for 45 years until her retirement in 1965.

As an educator, Mrs. Benitez was the recipient of various honors. On April 23, 1966, PWU conferred on her the title of *president emeritus*, along with its highest award, the "Ang Hiyas Ng Pamantasan" (The Jewel of the University).

In March 1970, she was permanently disabled by a hipbone injury. On November 17, 1974, she passed away at the age of 88.

CANDELARIO BORJA  
(1877- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**C**andelario Borja was born in Tagbilaran, Bohol on February 2, 1877. He had his primary schooling in his hometown. He earned his bachelor's degree in the seminary of Cebu.

In 1896 he enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas to study law, but because of the outbreak of their revolution, he had to return home.

During the revolution, he served as an artillery lieutenant .

In the revolutionary Aguinaldo government, he became secretary of the town of Loon.

In 1903, he took up law at the Escuela de Derecho in Manila, finishing the course in three years.

During his residency in Manila as a student, he became the secretary of the Scholars' Association of the Philippines. At the same time, he taught a business course at the Colegio de Comercio.

In 1907, he was elected to the first Philippine Assembly as a delegate of the first district of Bohol.

EUTIQUIO BOYLES  
(1874- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**E**utiquio Boyles was an agriculturist. He was born on November 24, 1874 in Ubay, Bohol. He was educated in a school in his hometown, at the Seminary College of Cebu in Cebu, and at the University of Santo Tomas, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He also studied commerce at UST.

He served the Spanish colonial government as delegate of justice, municipal board member, municipal secretary, justice of the peace, customs inspector, and municipal president.

In 1907, he became one of the three delegates for Bohol in the first Philippine Assembly. The others were Candelario Borja and Jose Clarin.

TOMAS BRIONES  
(D. 1897)  
Revolutionary Martyr from Capiz

**T**omas Briones was one of the natives of Capiz who were inducted into the Katipunan by the group led by Francisco del Castillo, Candido Iban, and Valenciano Dalida.

The Katipunan was established in Panay on the Christmas of 1896 by Del Castillo and Iban, on instruction of Andres Bonifacio while they were still in Manila. Del Castillo and Iban provided the secret revolutionary society a much-needed printing press. Bonifacio also instructed them to initiate hostilities against the Spaniards on the island at the most auspicious time.

Briones must have been recruited in Kalibo or in the neighboring town of Balete, Banga, or Malinao, Iban's birthplace.

The Katipunan on the island had a force of about a thousand men when hostilities suddenly erupted following its unexpected discovery on March 19, 1897. In the initial battle, the revolutionaries suffered a serious setback when Del Castillo, who had designated himself a general, was shot and killed while leading his men in the attack on the headquarters of the civil guards. Meanwhile, Iban, his second-in-command, was captured in Malinao with the help of the friars' native spies. However, the Katipuneros, although poorly armed and bereft of their top leaders, were able to put up a fierce fight

in Ibajay. The town would have fallen to them were it, not for the arrival of Spanish reinforcements.

Additional enemy troops under Col. Ricardo Monet landed in Dumaguít. Not knowing the true strength of the rebels, Monet heeded the advice of the local friars to adopt less bloody measures in quelling the uprising. He offered an amnesty, promising to forgive those who would voluntarily surrender to him.

From March 19 to 22, 50 rebels, including Briones, surrendered in Kalibo to the Spanish authorities. However, instead of being set free, they were treacherously arrested and tortured.

Briones and 19 others were identified as the leaders of the Katipunan in Capiz. Among them was Iban. The 20 were reduced to 19 after Fructuosa Meren, the mestiza wife of one of them, Nicanor Gonzales, pleaded to Monet on her bended knees to spare her husband, who was subsequently released.

Briones and the rest were taken to a warehouse on Amadeo Street in Kalibo on the night of March 23. There, they were tortured further so they would reveal more about the Katipunan. At around midnight, they were shot to death.

The following morning, their bodies were paraded around Kalibo, as a warning to those who would also defy Spanish authority, and then dumped elsewhere in a common, unmarked grave.

# ANTONINO R. BUENAVENTURA

(1904-1996)

National Artist for Music

**O**ne of the most influential composers and conductors in the country, Antonino R. Buenaventura was born on May 4, 1904 in Baliwag, Bulacan. He was the son of Lucino Buenaventura and Leocadia Ramirez.

Buenaventura was exposed to music at a very young age. He learned its rudiments from his father, who was the chief musician of the Spanish artillery band. He was tutored on the solfeggio by teachers whom his father hired. He became proficient in playing the clarinet. Later, he conducted the Banda Buenaventura which his father had founded.

Buenaventura studied at the Conservatory of Music of the University of the Philippines, where he graduated with a teacher's diploma in science and composition in 1932. Among his teachers were such famous musicians as Nicanor Abelardo, Francisco Santiago, and Jeno Von Tokacs. While he was still studying at the conservatory, he joined the Music Seniors Organization, of which he served as first president, and organized the first UP string quartet, which became the nucleus of the UP Junior Symphony Orchestra. He also served as conductor of the UP ROTC Band.

When Abelardo, his former teacher, died in 1934, he took over his classes and became a professor of music at the conservatory.

In 1935, Buenaventura was appointed by Jorge Bocobo, then head of the

state university, as a member of the UP president's advisory committee on folk songs and dances. Together with his colleagues in the committee, Francisca Reyes and Ramon Tolentino, he researched and documented the traditional music and dances of Filipinos around the country.

In 1939, Buenaventura became the music instructor and band conductor of the Philippine Military Academy. He served under Colonel Walter Loving in the Philippine Constabulary Band.

By the time the Second World War broke out, Buenaventura, assisted by his wife Rizalina Exconde, had founded the San Pablo Music Academy in Laguna.

After the war, Buenaventura was prevailed upon to reorganize the Philippine Constabulary Band. The band was practically in shambles, its members scattered. Its famous conductor and founder, Colonel Loving, had died during the Battle of Manila in February 1945. Buenaventura was able to reassemble 98 of its original members. He led the band, which later became the Philippine Army Band, for 16 years, until his retirement from military service in 1961.

Some 13 years earlier, in 1948, Buenaventura served as co-conductor of the Manila Symphony Orchestra, which toured Hong Kong, Guam, and Hawaii.

After retiring from military service, Buenaventura became the director of the Conservatory of Music of the University of Santo Tomas. In 1964, he organized the School of Music and Arts of the University of the East.

Buenaventura represented the Philippines in various international conferences. As president of the National Music Council, he represented the country in the International Council of Music in Rome, in 1962, and Hamburg, in 1964. He went to Kyoto, Japan in 1974 as vice chairman of the League of Filipino Composers. In 1976, he was the Philippine representative to the General Assembly of the International Society for Music Education which was held in Switzerland. He was the overall coordinator of the Second Southeast Asian Bandmasters Association and a member of the 40th Anniversary of the All-Nippon Bandmaster's Association held in Tokyo, Japan in 1978.

Buenaventura held the singular distinction of adopting ethnic and folk materials neoclassical or neoromantic style. He saw the potential of Philippine indigenous musical traditions in creating what is now called the "Philippine Sound."

Among this best works were "Minuet" (1937), for chamber orchestra; "Mindanao Sketches" (1947), a tone-poem; "Divertimento for Piano and Orchestra" (1959); "Variations and Fugue," for full orchestra; and "Greetings" (1978), a fantasy piece for band based on the *kumintang* of the Batangueños.

His most famous composition was "Pandanggo sa Ilaw," which was composed in 1936. It was originally intended to accompany a dance choreographed by Francisca Reyes-Aquino. It later became a song, renamed "Pandanguhan" by Levi Celerio, who wrote the lyrics.

Another of Buenaventura's works was "Echoes of the Philippines," which was performed by the Philippine Constabulary Band under Loving at the Golden Gate Exposition in California in 1936. In 1947, he composed "By the Hillside," which became one of the country's widely performed symphonic works. In 1986, Buenaventura composed "Awit sa Tagumpay ng Bayan," which was dedicated to the People Power Revolution in February 1986.

In 1966, Buenaventura wrote a book, *Sing and be Happy*, which was used by music classes in grades V and VI.

Throughout his illustrious career as a musician, Buenaventura reaped various awards and honors, among which were: the Band Conductor of the Year (1951), from the Music Lovers Society; Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Award (1971); Pro Mundi Beneficial Medal and Diploma Award (1975), from the Academia Brasileira de Ciencias Humanas; the Award of Merit for Outstanding Contributions to Philippine Music (1976), given by the Philippine Army, and the Director Emeritus Award (1981), from the University of the East.

In 1988, President Corazon C. Aquino named him National Artist for Music.

Buenaventura was included in *Who's Who in the World* in 1974 and in the *Directory of International Biographies* the following year.

Buenaventura was married to Rizalina Exconde, by whom he had four children.

He died on January 25, 1996 at the age of 92.

His remains lie with Filipino heroes and other great men at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

## EUGENIO CABEZAS

(1885-1896)

Cavite Martyr

**E**ugenio Cabezas, one of the "Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite," was born in 1855 to a watchman in Santa Cruz, near Paambundok, Manila. It was from his father that he learned to be a watchmaker. He was the eldest of four brothers, the others being Leon, a merchant; Jose, a government vaccinator; and Francisco.

He moved to Cavite at the invitation of his uncle. There he made a good name for himself as a goldsmith and watch repairman. His shop, located on Calle Real (now called Trece Martires Street), flourished. He employed extra helpers: Julian Ventura, a watch repairman from Manila; Felipe Concepcion, from Cavite; and his two cousins, Felipe and Roberto Cabezas, who both trained in his shop. His expertise as a watchmaker came to the fore when in 1892, he exhibited a clock made of bamboo at the Exposicion Real de Cavite. It won for him a diploma of honor.

Cabezas also dabbled in the making of decorative plate works for the *carros* that carried *santos* during processions. This he did despite his being a Mason.

Cabezas was a member of the Katipunan. He was responsible for enlisting the support of Severino Lapidario in the revolution of 1896. He had fought with a Spanish officer once.

Cabezas did not share the sentiments of General Emilio Aguinaldo about starting hostilities on August 31, 1896. He felt it was not the proper time as their group did not have enough arms and men. He later learned and then conveyed the message to Lapidario that eight provinces, Cavite included, were already under martial rule.

Not long after the outbreak of the revolution, Cabezas, with 12 other men, was arrested and jailed. They were executed on September 12, 1896. Their remains lie buried in the monument erected in their honor as martyrs.

After Cabezas' execution, his cousin Felipe continued the *relojeria* for his heirs.

Cabezas was married to Luisa Antonio of Cavite, who died on November 9, 1901. They had seven children: Jose, who died on May 3, 1928; Soledad, who remained single; Ramon, who was married to Julia Rosal; Fidela, Ramon, Carmen, and Emiliano, who died very young.

FELICIANO CABUCO  
(1865?-1896)  
Cavite Martyr

**B**orn on June 9, 1865(?) in Caridad, Cavite, Feliciano Cabuco was to become the youngest of the "Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite." His father, Jose Cabuco, at one time worked as a *cabeza de barangay* and as a carpenter at the Cavite arsenal. His mother was Felipa de Leon. He had two brothers - Rafael and Jacinto.

Cabuco received his primary education in Caridad. He had the first years of his *segunda enseñanza* under Jose Basa y Enriquez.

He then found employment at the Cañaco Hospital as a clerk.

Cabuco joined Masonry and became a member of the Katipunan. He served as secretary of its chapter organized in Cavite. It was attested to by a witness that his house was one of the meeting places of the group.

Cabuco was not afraid to die. When Spanish soldiers were about to arrest him, he did not attempt to hide or escape. Moreover, he said, "Donde morire uno, asi mismo moriren todos."

Cabuco died together with 12 other revolutionaries on September 12, 1896. His remains are deposited in the monument erected in memory of these Cavite martyrs.

He was married to Marcela Bernal, who also hailed from Caridad, Cavite. They had two sons who, unfortunately, died in infancy.

Among the things that Cabuco enjoyed doing was to write. Upon his death he left behind three books. However, these had to be burned to avoid any complications with the activities. He was also in the habit of visiting friends to discuss affairs of the country and conditions of the people. He regularly gave alms to the poor every Wednesday afternoon.

MARCIAL CALLEJA  
(1863-1914)  
Delegate to the Malolos Congress

**M**arcial Calleja was born in Malinao, Albay on August 22, 1863. He was the eldest of the three children of Juan Calleja, a farmer, and Silvestra Avinto.

Calleja finished his *segunda enseñanza* at the Seminary of Nueva Caceres in Naga, Camarines Sur. He later took up philosophy. After his studies in Naga, he went to Manila and enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas, where he obtained the title of *agrimensor* (surveyor) in 1885.

During the same year, he was appointed *perito lasador del estado*, and was assigned in Laguna. He held that post until 1891, the year he passed the competitive examination for the *secretario de ayuntamiento*. He was assigned as such in Albay and, later, in Batangas.

He then returned to UST and enrolled in a law course, which he finished in 1894.

In 1894 and 1895, Calleja served as secretary of the central board of Albay at the Exposicion Regional de Filipinas, which was held in Manila in 1895. During the revolutionary period, he became the *secretario de ayuntamiento* of Albay and, in September 1898, the *delegado de justicia* of the Revolutionary Junta. He also discharged the functions of *juez instructor* and *asesor de guerra*.

At the Malolos Congress, he was elected representative of Albay, together with Salvador V. del Rosario.

During the Filipino-American War, Calleja was captured by the Americans. This was in July 1900. After his release, he was appointed provincial fiscal of Albay, with a salary of 3,000 pesos a year. He later joined the Federal Party. In 1904, he was appointed member of the honorary board of Filipino commissioners in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, under Dr. T.H. Pardo de Tavera. Calleja also served as assistant attorney in the Attorney General's Office, starting on April 1, 1905. He twice received a salary increase until he resigned on December 31, 1908.

He returned to Albay the following year. There, he conducted review classes for students preparing for the bar examinations.

In 1909, he was elected assemblyman of the first district of Albay in the Second Philippine Assembly, where he was active in the development of new municipal and provincial laws.

Paralysis ended his active life in January 1910. He suffered from it for the next four years until his death on May 5, 1914.

Calleja was survived by his wife, Teresa Asenjo, of Albay, the daughter of Ramon Asenjo and Ramona Aragon. They had eight children, one of whom was Ambrosio A. Calleja, a lawyer like his father, who became a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1934.

FERNANDO CANON  
(1860-1938)  
Artist, Inventor and Champion  
Chess Player

A multi-faceted man, Fernando Canon was born on August 8, 1860, the youngest and the only boy of the five children of Fernando Canon and Blasa Aluma. His four sisters were Fernanda, Marciana, Juanita, and Isabel. His father was a watchmaker and inventor who had won several awards for his mechanical inventions. One was a sundial, for which he got a medal of civil merit from the Spanish government.

Canon studied at the Ateneo de Manila at the same time as Jose Rizal. Rizal, who was his good friend, was a close rival of his in scholarship and literary honors at the Jesuit school.

After obtaining his bachelor of arts degree, with high honors, in 1876 at the age of 17, he went to Spain with Maximo Paterno. He studied medicine at the University of Madrid, but, after the fifth year, he quit the course to devote himself to engineering, music, fencing, and chess.

Canon was an expert with the sword and pistol. Among the Filipinos in Spain, only Antonio Luna and Rizal could match him in fencing and shooting. None of them could beat him in chess, however.

As a chess player, he was a master strategist. On February 12, 1905, he won the championship at an international chess tournament in Cataluña,

Spain. In 1909, he won the first Philippine chess tournament in Manila. He was the first national chess champion of the Philippines.

Canon had been playing the Spanish guitar since his childhood in Biñan, Laguna. Taking guitar lessons in Spain, he became a favorite pupil of Francisco Tarrega, the Spanish guitar virtuoso. In 1887, he started giving guitar concerts in Spain.

Canon was also skilled player of the *kudyapi*, an ancient guitar-like musical instrument of the early Filipino.

As a poet, he was acknowledged by Rizal himself as his superior. A sonnet of his appeared in *La Solidaridad* in 1889.

But Canon was primarily an engineer, with a genius for mechanical inventions. Two of his early inventions were a 12 caliber gun with a steel cane that could be compressed and carried in a pocket, and a cane with a hidden battery that could discharge enough electricity to stun a dog. He received his engineering title at the Royal School of Electrical Engineers in Barcelona.

At the height of the Propaganda Movement, Canon assisted Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, and Graciano Lopez Jaena in the crusade for reforms. It was he who smuggled the first copies of Rizal's novel, *Noli Me Tangere*, into the Philippines. He hid them in boxes containing dry goods and shipped them to Manila addressed to his Spanish sweetheart, Teresita Batle, who later became his wife.

After the first phase of the 1896 Philippine Revolution, Canon returned home from Spain. He became a member of the Malolos Congress, representing the district of Bontoc.

Appointed by Emilio Aguinaldo as brigadier-general of the engineering corps and, later, director-general of public works, he installed the electric system, the telephone service, and the electric fans in Malolos. He planned various projects for the Republic, including the construction of a dam along the Bulacan River. However, these projects were not carried out due to the outbreak of the Filipino-American War. He built a number of fortifications, instead, in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, in the Camarines provinces, and in the Ilocos.

Later, as politico-military commander, with the rank of general, of Nueva Vizcaya, he showed his humanitarian spirit by liberating a large number of Spanish prisoners, including many friars.

On December 2, 1899, the day General Gregorio del Pilar died in Tirad Pass, he surrendered to the Americans in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

After the war, Canon returned to Manila. He assisted Enrique Mendiola, Dr. Jose Albert, Fernando Ma. Guerrero, Ignacio Villamor, and other patriots in founding the Liceo de Manila. He taught in the school as professor of electrodynamics.

Lured by travel, he gave up his teaching position and left for the United States. He proceeded to Europe and visited his old friend, Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt, in Leitmeritz, Austria. Blumentritt was also Rizal's friend. In Munich, Germany, he conducted researches in electricity in collaboration with Professor Scharf and Dr. Strebel. He moved to Spain and taught at the Polytechnic Institute and the Royal School of Electrical Engineers in Barcelona. He also worked in the mountain of Cordoba as an engineer.

Like Rizal, Canon was a linguist. He knew Tagalog, Bicol, Pangasinan, Spanish, English, French, German, and Italian.

After some years in Spain, he returned to Manila. He rejoined the faculty of Liceo de Manila. He devoted his spare time to literary writing and scientific researches.

In 1921, he published his book of verses, *A La Laguna de Bay* ("To Laguna de Bay").

During the same period, he succeeded in extracting oil from the *tangantangan* plant. He invented a mechanical device called "radiant vitalizer," which he believed could prolong life.

He spent the last years of his life in a dingy shack at 1094 Craig Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

He died in this poor house on July 18, 1938, at the age of 78.

Sometime in 1938, the Commonwealth government chose to offer him a lifetime pension. Canon declined. He said that all veterans of the Philippine Revolution should be given their pensions, not just a very few.

JOSE CANSECO, JR.  
(1839-1902)  
Composer, Bandmaster and Music Teacher

**T**he older of the two sons of Jose Cansenco, Sr. and the former Cecilia del Pozo Rivera, Jose Canseco, Jr. was born on June 1, 1839 in the historic city of Intramuros, Manila.

His father, of Spanish descent, was a sea captain who had sailed to Spain on several voyages passing through the Cape of Good Hope. During one voyage, his ship got wrecked. Somehow, however, he managed to find his way back to Manila and became a confidential person in Malacañang Palace, when Narciso Claveria was governor and captain general.

Canseco, who would grow up to become a musician, bandmaster, and musical inventor, first manifested his inclination to music when he, together with his younger brother Mariano, became a *tiple* in San Agustin Church at a very young age. He later joined the Manila Cathedral choir, which was then under the directorship of Blas Echegoyen, as a tenor. He continued as a tenor until the earthquake of June 1863 buried him and his companions under the rubble of the church. He miraculously survived the disaster, emerging from the rubble four days later.

By the year 1882, he had already been composing. One of his compositions, "Sta. Teresa Doctora, Sed Mi Protectora," was submitted to the Sta. Teresa centennial celebration contest. It was awarded the gold medal over

the entry of his director and instructor Echegoyen, which placed second.

Canseco became the conductor of the orchestra organized by Pedro Gruet.

In 1886, he helped Raymundo Fermin, the blind flute player, organize an orchestra in Pandacan whose members were all women. He sometimes also assisted and conducted orchestras for foreign opera troupes that visited the Philippines.

That year also saw Canseco assisting Ladislaw Bonus Santos in forming an opera company composed of local singers in Pandacan. He served as its stage director. He also supervised the making of costumes.

With an all-Filipino cast, the company successfully staged parts of "La Traviata" and "Rigolletto," as well as whole operas, like "Lucrezia Borgia" and "Linda di Chamounix." For a theater, it used a cockpit in Pandacan.

For its artistic achievements, the company was honored with an invitation from the governor and captain general to perform in the city of Manila.

Canseco left the company in 1889 to become the director of the Narvacan band in the north. After two years, in 1891, he returned to Manila. He was persuaded to take the rigid government competitive examination for bandmasters, which he passed. He thus got appointed as bandmaster of Regiment No. 71 of the Spanish Army, succeeding Lazaro Concepcion.

His first assignment with the regiment was in Zamboanga. While he was there, he was able to devise and perfect a musical contraption that facilitated musical transcription and harmonization for both students and professional musicians alike. This device, which he originally called "miratonos" but was renamed "tonopsis mecanica" by Fr. Sauret, S.J., was presented to the Exposicion Regional de Filipinas in 1885. Unfortunately, it was not appreciated there. Luck was with him, though, during the St. Louis Exposition of 1904, where his device received a gold medal.

In May of 1896, he was transferred to Iligan, where the revolution overtook him. With Rosalio Silos, he was almost shot after he was charged with complicity in it. Having been proved innocent, he was released from prison.

Canseco moved to Cagayan de Misamis in 1898. He was commissioned to deliver money to the revolutionary government in Malolos, Bulacan to

augment its funds for Luzon, but he failed to make it to Malolos.

From May to November 1900, he stayed in Cebu and taught music. When he returned to Manila, he taught the piano and solfeggio at the Liceo de Manila and in the Colegio Porvenir. He also taught harmony and composition at home. Among his pupils were Felipe Marin, Leon Ignacio, Julio Paz, Silvestre Tapales, Santiago Cruz, and Alfredo Roa.

Some of his compositions are: "Salve a la Sma. Virgen," "Letania a la Sma. Virgen," "Liberama," "Plegaria a la Dolorosa," "La Despedida" (a song with words by Lorenzo Guerrero), "La Ausencia" (dedicated to the girl who became his second wife), and "Flor de Maria" in three parts, the musical score to a Spanish zarzuela, "La Muerte de Lucrezia" by Ronderos. None of these compositions, which remained unedited, was ever printed.

Canseco also composed several marches which were played by his band. He collected about 72 native folk songs and airs from the north and south which were never located.

Canseco married twice. His first wife, the former Engracia San Juan, gave him two children - Apolonia and Nicolas. After her death in 1881, he married again. His second wife, the former Francisca Espiritu, gave him nine children, but only five of them reached maturity: Jose, Mariano, Josefina, Juan, and Manuel.

He died of chronic dysentery on June 12, 1902. He was 63 years old.

MARIA E. CARPENA  
(1886-1915)  
Zarzuela Star

**D**ubbed as "the real nightingale in the history of Filipino zarzuela," Maria E. Carpena was born in Santa Rosa, Laguna on October 22, 1886. She had three sisters and four brothers. Her father, Camilo Carpena, a strict disciplinarian, was a lease-holder and rice grower. Her mother, Maria Evangelista, came from Binyang. Their family belonged to the middle-class of Santa Rosa.

Her parents enrolled her in the Colegio de Santa Rosa, Manila sometime in 1900. Her early education in music must have come from this school, where the famous composer, Fulgencio Tolentino, was one of the teachers.

Carpena was greatly attracted to singing. In her hometown she used to sing in the church choir and to take part in singing contests. However, her father strongly objected to her desire to pursue a serious career in music, which he considered unsuitable for girls. Nevertheless, in 1901, when she was only 15, she decided to sing at benefit concert at the Zorrilla Theater. She became an overnight sensation because of her magnificent performance. Several provincial concerts, for which she drew popular acclaim, followed.

Her initial successes as a singer alienated her father all the more. She lost his financial support in her stay and studies at the Santo Rosa College. Subsequently, she was thrown out of the school and forced to lead her own

life.

It was at this time that she met Jose Alcantara. He was a sales agent from Trozo who owned a shop for making *kalesas*. They lived together and had two children, named Florita and Jaime Alcantara.

Eventually, she plunged into more theatrical engagements, performing to full houses. She appeared in *Minda Mora*, a zarzuela by the famous orator and drama director Severino Reyes, who gave her the lead role in it after the actress-singer who was supposed to play it begged off. In the midst of a performance in this zarzuela, she learned of the untimely death of her husband. Instead of stopping, however, she went on to finish the show. She was only 18 when she became a widow.

Carpena appeared in other zarzuelas. She was paired with Victorio Carrion, a dramatic tenor, in "Walang Sugat." In "Lakas ng Dugo" and "Confianza Mata al Hombre," she was paired with Andres Ciria Cruz.

Aside from her golden voice, Carpena was also endowed with a magnetic personality as well as a pretty face. She had many suitors. One of them was from a well-known family in Manila. Although the man was married, she couldn't resist his advances. They had a son named Mauro Prieto, who was born on March 12, 1908.

After 1908, her stage appearances became very limited. She had developed a goiter that hampered her performance. She then left for Shanghai together with her son, Mauro. He goiter must have been cured, because sometime in 1915, she appeared again in a zarzuela at the Zorrilla. She had just completed her piece, however, when she was stricken by a severe abdominal pain. She was taken to the San Juan de Dios Hospital. She was attended to by Dr. Gregorio Singian, who found her suffering from acute appendicitis. She never recovered from that ailment.

On March 8, 1915, Carpena passed away at the age of 28.

To perpetuate her memory, a street in Quiapo was named after her.

JOSE LUNA CASTRO  
(1915-1986)  
Outstanding Journalist and Editor

**J**ose Luna Castro was a journalist, short story writer, and poet. He was born in Manila on March 4, 1915, but grew up in Lubao, Pampanga. His parents were Claudia de Luna and Faustino Rivera Castro.

After graduating from the Pampanga High School in 1932, he entered the Union Theological Seminary in Manila on a Clemens Scholarship and became an evangelist. He graduated from Union College of Manila in 1936 with a bachelor of arts degree.

Castro joined the *Philippine Herald* fresh from college. The first assignment given to him by his editor, Carlos P. Romulo, was to cover the war then raging in China in the late '30's between China and Japan as a war correspondent for four months. In 1939, as a staff member of *Weekly Graphic*, he wrote an article which Mencken later reprinted in "The American Language, Supplement II."

Castro began writing poems and short stories while he was still in high school. Some of his early stories first appeared in the prewar *Graphic Magazine*, when he was on its staff. One of them, "Mango" (1938), was included in Jose Garcia Villa's honor roll. "Barrio Witch," one of his most memorable stories, appeared in the *Herald Mid-Week Magazine* (1934).

One of Castro's poems, "Beach Etching," was published in the *Philippine Review* (1944) under a pen name, E.E. Arguelles. He also wrote under the names of Guillermo Santillan, Moises Adeva, and Horatio Ong.

Castro was a crusader scholar of the Methodist Board of Mission at Syracuse University in New York where he obtained a master's degree in journalism and political science in 1950. In 1970, he became an Eisenhower Fellow in the United States.

After World War II, he joined the *Manila Times*. He became its editor in 1959. Later, he was named executive editor of the Manila Times Publishing Company, which published not just the *Manila Times* but also the *Daily Mirror*, *Bagong Buhay*, *Taliba*, and *Sunday Times Magazine*. He stayed in that position until 1972, when the country was placed under martial law.

In 1973, he was appointed editorial consultant of the *Times Journal*. He later became its editor-in-chief. In 1976-77, he was press counselor of the Philippine embassy in Peking, China. In 1982, he was press consultant of the Philippine embassy in Washington, D.C.

Castro was co-founder and president of the Asian Institute of Journalism. He was also a professorial lecturer for many years at the University of the Philippines, Philippine Christian University, and the Philippine Women's University. He served as president of the Wesleyan University Scholarship Foundation, and board member of the Cancer Society and the Police Trust Fund. He was a member of the Manila Rotary and Philippine Colombian Association.

Castro had been described as the "newspaperman's newspaperman." He was an elegant writer of English and an excellent editor. It was his passion for clean and effective writing that made him write the style book of the *Manila Times* in 1960 and the *Times Journal* journalism manual in 1963.

The manual was the first of its kind to be published in the Philippines. Its writing grew out of the author's early efforts to provide his co-workers at the *Manila Times* with a handy reference on the various aspects of newswriting and reporting that would help raise the standard of local newspaper practice.

As a journalist and editor, Castro once said that in doing his job, he did not care whether he was hated or not, since he was not engaged in a popularity contest.

He was married to the former Rosalina Icbán. They had four children.

He died on June 18, 1986.

CASIANO CAUSIN  
(1874- )  
1907 Assembly Member

Casiano Causin was one of Cebu's representatives elected to the First Philippine Assembly convened in 1907.

Causin was born on August 13, 1874 in the town of Barili in the southern part of Cebu. He had his primary and elementary education at the Seminario de San Carlos in Cebu City. In 1893, he proceeded to Manila and enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas, where he graduated with the degree of *bachiller en artes*. Intending to become a lawyer, he took up a law course in the same university.

The outbreak of the revolution against Spain in 1896 temporarily interrupted his legal studies. He was forced to return to Barili and help his parents manage the family farm. It was during this time that he founded a school for boys in which he taught Spanish and Latin. Through this endeavor, he honed his communication skills while providing the young men in his town an opportunity to improve their knowledge while the revolution, followed by the Filipino-American war, raged around the country.

Causin returned to Manila in 1902 to resume his legal studies at the pontifical university. After obtaining his law degree the following year, he was appointed assistant district attorney of Cebu. In 1904, he was named justice of the peace and served as such until 1905.

When the Philippine Commission announced the holding of the elections for the Philippine Assembly, Causin ran as a candidate, and was elected to represent the sixth district of Cebu.

FLORENTINO CAYCO  
(1892-1976)  
Founder of Arellano University

**A**n outstanding educator, Florentino Cayco was born in Malabon, Rizal, then Morong Province, on October 16, 1892. Of humble beginnings, he worked as a gardener at the Bureau of Lands while pursuing his education. After finishing his secondary course, he became a primary school teacher in 1909. He rose from the ranks, assuming the post of school supervisor in Caloocan in 1917. Not long afterwards, he was sent to the United States as a government *pensionado*.

Cayco studied at Indiana State University, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree in 1921. A year later, he obtained his master of arts in education degree at Columbia University. His scholastic record was the pride of his fellow pensionados. He was chosen to represent all foreign students during the bicentennial celebration of Indiana State University in 1920.

Back in the Philippines, Cayco served as assistant to the superintendent of city schools from 1922 to 1935. He resigned this position to become president of the National University in 1937, serving as such up to 1941. He founded the Arellano University in 1938.

Cayco also published and edited the *Philippine Teachers Digest* and the *Boys and Girls Magazine*. The first publication was highly valued as an

instructional guide for education students and for teachers who wanted to improve their professional competence.

At the end of the Second World War, Cayco was prevailed upon by no less than President Sergio Osmeña to return to the government service to help rehabilitate the country's educational system. As he wrote to an American friend, it was a challenge "not easy to ignore."

Cayco was appointed undersecretary of instruction and information. Concurrently, he served as chairman of the Board on Textbooks. He was also with the National Council of Education, the board of directors of the Government Service Insurance System, and the board of governors of the National Cooperative Administration. He remained with the government until May 31, 1946. Afterwards he resumed his position as president of Arellano University.

The prestige enjoyed by Arellano University as an educational institution was due in large measure to Cayco's progressive ideas and policies as well as effective leadership. Outside of its original campus on Legarda Street, Sampaloc, Manila, the university has branches and secondary schools in Pasay and Mandaluyong serving thousands of students.

As a prominent educator, Cayco lectured in various colleges and universities in the country. He stressed the importance of education by urging the government to give it priority attention, and the private sector to encourage the professional growth of teachers. He believed that teachers should be given adequate compensation so that the best and the brightest among them would remain in the teaching profession.

In recognition of his distinguished leadership and dedicated service as an educator, the Philippine Association of School Superintendents bestowed on Cayco its award of distinction on May 6, 1965.

Cayco died on August 29, 1976.

PEDRO CHAVES  
(1864- )  
Priest-Member of 1907 Assembly

**A** Catholic priest, Pedro Chaves was the lone member of the clergy in the First Philippine Assembly, which was convened in 1907.

He was born in the town of Mauban, Tayabas, now the province of Quezon, on November 26, 1864.

Chaves studied at the Seminario Conciliar de Nueva Segovia, now the city of Naga in Camarines Sur, where he obtained his degree in theology. In 1889, he was ordained priest and served as a member of the faculty of the seminary. Later, he was assigned to Liboc, Albay and to other towns of Camarines Sur, serving as a coadjutor. Then he was appointed parish priest of the towns of Palanas and Baleno on the island of Masbate, off the Bicol peninsula.

During the revolution, Fr. Chaves was appointed captain in the revolutionary army. He operated in the areas of the Ambos Camarines, Albay, Masbate, and Sorsogon provinces. After the Americans had subdued the struggling Philippine Republic and established their rule in the country, he quietly retired to private life.

However, when the Philippine Commission passed a resolution order-

ing the holding of elections for the First Philippine Assembly, Chaves filed his candidacy as assemblyman for the second district of Sorsogon, and won handily.

A strong advocate of Philippine independence, he filed a resolution in the Assembly demanding immediate and absolute independence for the country. When his measure was rejected, he had a coffin containing its original copy brought to the chamber of the Assembly to symbolize the death of freedom in the Philippines.

Fr. Chaves believed that the Philippine Assembly was being used by the Americans to perpetuate their rule in the country.

## JUAN CLIMACO

### Revolutionary Leader

**A**t the time of the pack of 'Biak-na-Bato, when General Emilio Aguinaldo was on self-exile in Hongkong, Anastacio Oclarino, a native of Pangil, Laguna and a *maquinista* of the steamship, *Bohol*, owned by the Casa Smith-Bell of Cebu, arrived in the southern city on a mission for Gil Domingo and Hermogenes Plata, followers of Bonifacio. His mission was to convince the Cebuanos that Filipino resistance to Spanish rule in Luzon still continued.

There were many sympathizers of the revolution in Cebu, and the person who initiated them into the Katipunan was Pantaleon Villegas, a native of Bacong, Negros Oriental who, as a young boy, had gone with a circus troupe to Luzon. When he returned, he was an ardent Katipunero, known by his *nom de guerre* of "Leon Kilat."

In pursuit of instructions to form a revolutionary government for Cebu and Mindanao, the Cebu-based Katipuneros and their local sympathizers held crucial meetings. In one such meeting on March 11, 1898, the Tagalog moved the Cebuanos with their impassioned plea to take up the revolutionary cause.

It was agreed that Cebu would rise in arm against the Spaniards on Good Friday, April 8, 1898. However, on April 2, the secretary of the local

Katipunán, who kept the list of its members, was arrested. Thus the Cebuanos decided to act immediately before the Spaniards could mount a raid.

Numbering several thousand, they gathered the next day in barrio Lobangon, San Nicholas, armed only with five rifles and shotguns, apart from machetes and bamboo poles. The Guardia Civil thought that they were there simply to attend a cockfight and tried to disperse them, but beat a hasty retreat carrying the news that armed men were pitching camp around the cemetery. A detachment of Guardia Civil riflemen and volunteers sent to the place was met by a group of revolutionaries. The encounter led to a battle marking the beginning of the revolution in Cebu. In that battle, the Cebuano revolutionaries, led by Pantaleón Villegas, caused the Spanish force to retreat.

On April 8, however, Villegas, was assassinated by another Cebuano, and a Katipunero at that. Even Cebu was not spared the traitor's plague.

After Villegas' death, two other Cebuano leaders emerged - Generals Juan Climaco and Arcadio Maxilom. It was Climaco who was tagged as the leader and brain of the Cebu revolution.

On February 22, 1899, less than three weeks after the Filipino-American war began, Cebu City was taken by the American marines. The local defenders were no match for the well-armed and disciplined enemy. The Cebuanos retreated to the hills, engaging henceforth in guerilla warfare.

On October 2, 1890, Cebu revolutionaries sent a forceful message to the United States Congress vindicating the Philippine revolution. Written by General Climaco, the letter concluded:

"We express to you that we gladly accept the temporary protection of your country but as to its sovereignty, never."

It was a simple letter ringing with steely resolve.

On March 23, 1901, General Emilio Aguinaldo was captured by the Americans in Palanan, Isabela.

On the same day, April 1, 1901, that General Aguinaldo took the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States, Climaco circulated a manifesto, addressed to his fellow Filipinos, urging them to continue the revolution. Part of the letter said:

"The capture of General Aguinaldo, the supreme head of the revolution, should not discourage us, should the report be confirmed.

"The influence of his prestige was hitherto necessary for the formation, organization and existence of the revolution, but from the moment the revolution reached the climax of its progress, with a life of its own plethoric with vigor, it can continue living without the help and guidance of its famous leader."

By July 20, 1901, Juan Climaco and Arcadio Maxilom were still fighting in Cebu, while other Filipino guerilla leaders were surrendering to the Americans one by one. In October 1901, however, Climaco himself surrendered, perhaps realizing the futility of fighting a formidable foe. The war of independence in Cebu was over.

In 1902, Climaco ran for the governorship of Cebu. His rival was retired justice Julio Llorente, who was Civil Governor William Howard Taft's bet. Climaco won, partly because of the help of Sergio Osmeña, the publisher of the newspaper *El Nuevo Dia*.

There had been some question about Climaco's candidacy, though. It seemed that he had surrendered to the Americans after the deadline for it had elapsed, thus making him ineligible to seek public office. Furthermore, he lived some 20 miles away from Cebu City and, on the last day for the filing of certificates of candidacy, he had not yet registered. It was Osmeña who persuaded the pro-Llorente American commander not to disqualify Climaco.

When Climaco left for the United States as a member of the board of commissioners to attend the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1903, he recommended to then Governor General Wright that Osmeña be appointed as acting provincial governor of Cebu while he was away.

On his second term as governor, Climaco asked Osmeña to be his successor and run for governor. Osmeña did, and won. It was Osmeña's first public office job. It could be said that Climaco was responsible for Osmeña's political career.

Climaco had total trust in Osmeña, and Osmeña had implicit faith in Climaco. Their friendship started during the war with the Americans. It was the young Osmeña who was commissioned by Climaco to carry messages to General Emilio Aguinaldo.

MELECIO COJUANCO  
(1871- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**O**f Chinese ancestry, Melecio Cojuanco was a teacher of second instruction (*segunda enseñanza*). He was born in Malolos, Bulacan on May 24, 1871. He studied at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran and, later, at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. However, failing health made him quit schooling and return to his hometown. After some time, he resumed his studies in Manila, enrolling at the Escuela Normal, where he obtained his title as a teacher.

In time, Cojuanco took up residency in Paniqui, Tarlac, where he devoted himself to commercial and agricultural pursuits.

In Paniqui, he got involved in the activities of the local public school and in sanitation. He became municipal vice-president and, then, president, and, later, member of the provincial government.

In 1907, after relinquishing his post in the provincial government, he ran for a seat in the first Philippine Assembly as delegate representing Tarlac. He won.

The Assembly was inaugurated on October 16, 1907. Represented in it were the provinces of Luzon, except those of the Mountain Province, and of the Visayas. Of the Mindanao provinces, only Misamis and Surigao were

represented. The provinces and other areas not represented in the Assembly were placed under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Commission, which was more powerful than the Assembly. The Assembly held its sessions in the old Ayuntamiento building.

The 16th of October, the Assembly's inaugural date was declared only once as a special holiday in the country. This was in 1957, pursuant to Proclamation No. 448, issued by President Carlos P. Garcia on October 4 of that year.

JOSE CORONEL  
(1868-1939)  
Revolutionary Officer

**R**evolutionary officer and member of the Malolos Congress, Jose Coronel y Rosal was born on May 7, 1868 in Indang, Cavite. His parents, Elias Coronel and Eufracia Rosal, belonged to prominent families of Indang.

Coronel had his early education in the town of his birth, at the school conducted by Juan Peñaflor, Indang's *maestro municipal*. He continued his studies in Manila, at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, where he completed the equivalent of a secondary education. He then enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas for a course in philosophy, but he was unable to complete it because he got married early, to a lass from his hometown named Maria Lopez. His wife eventually gave him four sons. Ernesto, German, Tirso, and Artemio.

With the outbreak of the revolution against Spain in August 1896, Coronel joined the forces of the Katipunan under Baldomero Aguinaldo, who led the Magdalo faction of the organization. He saw action in many battles against the Spaniards, specially in Talisay, Batangas and Dalahican, Noveleta, Cavite in which he distinguished himself. His bravery and courage in the face of the enemy caught the attention of General Emilio Aguinaldo. Gradually, Coronel rose in the revolutionary ranks, until he became a colonel. There were instances when he acted as secretary of war in the

absence of Baldomero Aguinaldo.

Coronel was one of the Filipino leaders, which included Mariano Trias, Severino de las Alas, Emiliano Riego de Dios, and Santiago Rillo, who arranged for the general meeting of leaders of the revolution at the friar-estate house in Naik, Cavite in 1897, during which it was agreed that a Philippine Republic be established.

Coronel's name does not appear in the list of delegates to the Malolos Congress who signed the Republic's Constitution at Barosoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan on January 21, 1899. However, it appears in the list of delegates to the Revolutionary Congress in Tarlac on July 7, 1899. Coronel was an appointed delegate representing Amburayan (Ilocos Sur?). Since the Revolutionary Congress was both a constituent and legislative assembly, Coronel must have participated in the deliberations and passage of laws by that body.

There is no information available on the role of Coronel during the Filipino-American War.

After the war, Coronel returned to Indang, Cavite, where he retired to the quiet life of a simple farmer.

He died in 1939.

ESTEBAN CONTRERAS  
(1864- )  
Capiz Revolutionary Leader

**O**ne of the leaders of Panay during the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War, Esteban Contreras initiated the first clashes between the Filipinos and Spaniards in Capiz, in 1897.

The only son of Simeon Contreras and Carmen Dichosa, he was born on May 12, 1864, in Capiz, now Roxas City. He grew up in his birthplace, where his parents engaged in fishing and farming.

Due to the early death of his father and the subsequent remarriage of his mother, he was adopted by his father's sister, Lucia Contreras, who never married. She sent her nephew to study in Iloilo. In return, he managed her sugar plantation.

It was during his schooling that he was exposed to the writings of the leaders of the Propaganda Movement, like Graciano Lopez Jaena, and the insensitivity of the Spanish civil and religious authorities.

In 1897, Contreras, with a few companions, formed in the remote barrio of Malag-it, Ponteoverda, Capiz what became the nucleus of the revolutionary movement in the province. The revolution had broken out in Luzon and the colonial authorities had resorted to terroristic measures to prevent its spread to other areas of the country. The unjust execution of the 19 Panay martyrs on March 23 of that year only increased Contreras' resolve to free

Capiz from Spanish domination.

Contreras devised clever measures to avoid premature detection of his radical group by the colonial authorities and their native spies. He often held parties with much merry-making to camouflage its clandestine meetings. His mother-in-law, who was unaware of the real reason for the boisterous gatherings, scolded him for indulging too much in such wasteful activities.

Contreras planned to launch the revolution in Capiz by attacking a camp of the Civil Guard. Unfortunately, this plan was betrayed to the Spanish authorities, forcing him to flee. For a while, he and his followers, mostly husky farm hands, evaded the enemy in the swampy area in Capiz. Later, they ambushed a Spanish unit in Sitio Tadiiao.

On May 4, 1897, Contreras and his men had their first big battle at Tanza. They would have overwhelmed the Spanish defenders but for the timely arrival of reinforcement from Capiz. Instead, they suffered heavy casualties, including 150 men killed.

Despite this setback, Contreras continued to build up his motley army of peasants, armed with spears, bolos, and a few rifles. This prompted the enemy to launch a big offensive against him at Balisong Hill, Capiz. Actually, Contreras was waiting for the Spaniards to attack. He had ordered large trees cut into logs and placed on the hills edges, and had trenches and other fortifications built strategically.

When the Spanish forces attempted to climb the hill, the Filipino defenders rained them with gunfire and various missiles, like spears and arrows. Three assault waves they launched were repulsed in this manner with heavy losses on their side. By the time the Spaniards launched their fourth charge, however, Contreras and his men were already low on ammunition. That was when he ordered the large logs rolled down the hill, causing the enemy to retreat in disarray. To avoid being trapped by the enemy when its ranks were swelled by reinforcements, Contreras decided to abandon his position.

After the lull in the fight against Spain, during which the Americans emerged as the new enemy, Contreras returned to the battlefield, with his revolutionary comrades, to engage the U.S. Army in guerrilla warfare for two years. He gave up the struggle and surrendered to Lt. M.F. Grote in 1901, upon learning that President Emilio Aguinaldo had been captured in Palanan, Isabela.

MANUEL CORRALES  
(1852- )  
Assemblyman and Governor

**M**anuel Corrales represented the second district of Misamis to the first Philippine Assembly. Corrales was born on June 25, 1852 in the suburb of Santa Cruz in Manila. He was the son of Manuel Corrales and Josefa Roa.

Corrales first studied under the Jesuits. However, his education was abruptly interrupted by the earthquake of 1863 which devastated his parents' house and their business. After his father died in a shipwreck, he helped his mother take care of the family.

Corrales turned to agriculture. He looked for suitable lands to cultivate abaca, which was becoming a cash crop of the country. He established a farm in Misamis which was far away from the populated areas.

While growing abaca, he supplemented whatever lectures he remembered during his school days by reading books. Through his efforts, he became a self-learned man and a respected member of his community. As a result, he later occupied various government positions - as public defender representing poor prisoners, *escribano* or court clerk, property registrar, justice of the peace, and as judge of the Court of First Instance.

Corrales sided with the rebels during the Philippine Revolution. After-

wards, he served as an adviser to the Misamis provincial police. He helped preserve peace and order in the province during the evacuation of the Spanish authorities to Zamboanga after their defeat by the Americans.

When the Americans arrived to take control of the province, their leader, General Kobe, asked Corrales to convince the Filipino freedom fighters to lay down their arms and accept the authority of the United States. However, his mediation efforts proved fruitless. Only with the capture of General Aguinaldo in Palanan on March 23, 1901 and the waning of the revolution in Luzon did the revolutionaries in Misamis end their armed struggle for freedom.

With the establishment of civil government under the Americans, Corrales was appointed governor of Misamis on June 21, 1901. He was reappointed for another term. In 1906, when the position became elective, Corrales won his third term without opposition.

In the elections for the Philippine Assembly, which was convened in 1907, he ran as an independent candidate and won.

# HERMENEGILDO CRUZ

(1880-1943)

Labor Leader & Writer

**B**orn on December 31, 1880, Hermenegildo Cruz was the second child of a poor couple in Binondo, Manila. His parents' early death left him and his elder sister with the responsibility of rearing their younger brothers.

Poverty forced him to sacrifice his own studies so he could send his siblings to school. Through self-study and a grim determination to succeed, however, he learned to read and write in Tagalog and Spanish.

During the revolution against Spain, he served on the staff of General Antonio Luna as a second lieutenant. He later worked as a *minervista* (pressman) at Luna's printing shop, which published *La Independencia*, a revolutionary newspaper. Sympathetic to the cause of laborers who were disgruntled with the working conditions at the time, he organized a labor union and led the first printers' strike in Luna's shop. For this, he lost his job.

Back in Manila, he met Isabelo delos Reyes, who introduced him to the European concept of trade unionism. With Delos Reyes' proddings, he organized the Union Obrera Democratica de Filipinas, the first labor union in the Philippines. He was elected secretary-general, with Reyes as president. He likewise headed the committee which drafted the constitution and by-laws of the federation of trade unions in the whole country, and presided over the first labor congress in the Philippines (Congreso Obrero de Filipinas),

which was held on February 2, 1902.

In 1907, Cruz was chosen to head a three-man committee to draft labor bills for the Philippine Assembly. Among the bills passed into law were those which created the Bureau of Labor, defined the liabilities of employers, and officially declared May 1 of every year as Labor Day.

Cruz was named assistant director of the Bureau of Labor in 1918, and became its director in 1924. During his incumbency, he worked hard for the enactment of more labor laws, one of which created the Department of Labor.

When he was not busy with labor matters, Cruz found time to write. Among his works were "Kartilyang Makabayan," the first biographical study of Andres Bonifacio, and "Kung Sino ang Kumatha ng Florante," a biographical study of Francisco Balagtas, the author of "Florante at Laura."

In 1907, Cruz founded *Balagtas*, the official organ of Gremio de Impresores. In 1910, he was appointed as editor of *Ang Mithi*.

Cruz was married to Manuela Rodriguez of Mariveles, Bataan. Their marriage took place on January 6, 1903 in Indochina (now North Vietnam). They had six children.

After his wife's death in 1916, Cruz devoted more time to writing. He spent his retirement years translating into Tagalog the Spanish text of Jose Rizal's biography by Rafael Palma.

He died of a heart attack at his house on March 21, 1943.

# BADO DANGWA

(1905-1976)

## Transportation Magnate and Provincial Governor

**B**ado Dangwa was a businessman, philanthropist, and word War II resistance leader. His name is a household word not only in Baguio City and Benguet but in the rest of the Cordillera region as well, and is often associated with the transportation company whose buses have served the mountain folk since the prewar period.

Dangwa was born on May 5, 1905 in Kapangan, Benguet. He studied in the then American-run Trinidad Agricultural School in Benguet, now the Mountain Province Agricultural School. With his knack for mechanical objects, he became an expert, while still very young, in taking apart junk machines and motor vehicles and then reassembling them and making them run. Eventually, he was put in charge of the school shop.

Dangwa's aptitude and skills were encouraged by one of his teachers, James Wright, who became both his adviser and friend. When, after finishing his course at TAS, he expressed a desire to be a teacher, Wright tried to make him see that his future lay elsewhere. At the time, Trinidad Valley was being developed as the salad bowl of the Philippines. Seeing the potentials of the transportation industry in the areas, he told the young Dangwa to forget about teaching and, instead, try to establish a career in the said industry. Since he was practically penniless then, Dangwa was hesitant to take Wright's advice.

However, Wright was bent on having his protege get a start. He helped him acquire five dilapidated Chevrolet cars from Emilio Milia, the owner of the North Garage in La Trinidad. Dangwa accomplished his first task, which was to immediately put those cars in running condition, but the problem was that he did not have the money to buy gasoline to actually make them run. Another friend of his, a Mr. Equies, a former teacher at the Trinidad Agricultural School, came to the rescue. He loaned Dangwa 10 pesos. In no time, Dangwa had converted some of the junk cars into jeepneys plying the route between La Trinidad and Baguio City. By 1928, three of them were the popular mode of transportation in the Mountain Province. This was long before similar vehicles converted from the jeeps used by American G.I.'s during the Second World War were to be seen on the country's roads. Dangwa set up a canteen where his employees could take their meals. Soon even the jeepney passengers were patronizing it.

Like the canteen, Dangwa's transportation business prospered. He set up the Dangwa Transportation Company, to which his friends contributed funds if he needed more money. He was its president and general manager. Before the outbreak of World War II, the firm had 173 buses carrying both passengers and freight. A number plied the Baguio-Manila route.

Dangwa also had the largest poultry farm in La Trinidad.

During the war, Dangwa joined the guerrillas and won fame fighting the Japanese invaders on the various mountain trails of the Cordilleras. By the end of the war, he had earned the rank of major in the resistance movement.

The war destroyed much of his transportation business but with the help of his old friends, Dangwa was able to rebuild his bus company. After acquiring many surplus American trucks, it was back on its feet, serving once more the people of the Mountain Province.

Dangwa's reputation for integrity, honesty, and efficiency in business had reached the national authorities. On April 8, 1953, President Quirino, who belonged to the Liberal Party, appointed him governor of the Mountain Province. Dangwa accepted the appointment, but he had to resign four months later to campaign actively during the elections that year for Ramon P. Mitra, the Nacionalista candidate for congressman for the second district of the Mountain Province, of which Benguet was part. Mitra won.

Quirino's successor, Ramon Magsaysay, also recognized Dangwa's virtues. A few months after his inauguration as President, he reappointed Dangwa as Mountain Province governor. Dangwa thus earned the distinc-

tion of being the only provincial governor in the country appointed by two Presidents who came from different political parties.

The Mountain Province was composed of the subprovinces of Bontoc, Ifugao, Kalinga Apayao, and Benguet. When the governorship of the province became elective, the Benguet Mayors League drafted Dangwa as their gubernatorial candidate for the November 1953 elections. By winning, Dangwa earned another distinction, that of being the first elected governor of Benguet.

As governor, Dangwa carried out a sustained crusade against corrupt public officials, grafters, and inefficient public servants, enlisting in the process the cooperation of civic-spirited citizens. He was determined to give his constituents a clean and honest government. He made himself accessible to them and their problems. Basically a humble person, he shunned publicity, and often moved around without bodyguards.

Very much concerned about the low regard by colonial-minded Filipinos, specially the lowlanders, for the people of Benguet, denigratingly called Igorots along with the rest of the inhabitants of the Cordilleras, he sought to show that they were as civilized and honorable as anybody else, if not more so, adverting to their industry and trustworthiness, among other virtues. Dangwa instructed the personnel of his transportation company to transport back for free to their homes in the Cordilleras, as long as they were willing, those highlanders, specially old men and women, who had strayed to urban centers like Manila to earn a living by begging. Dangwa also assisted many youths in the Mountain Province in obtaining proper education to uplift themselves and their families by sponsoring scholarships.

Because of his sterling performance, Dangwa was reelected as governor, serving for two terms, from 1956 to 1959, and 1960 to 1963. Afterwards he retired from politics, and attended to his private businesses. His nephew, Samuel Dangwa, followed his political footsteps, becoming Benguet's second vice-governor and, in 1987, a member of Congress.

Dangwa was married to the former Maria Antero, who became an active social and civic leader in Benguet and Baguio City.

He died in 1976.

A camp of the Philippine National Police in Benguet has been named in his honor.

SEBASTIAN DE CASTRO  
(1864-1932)  
Delegate to the Malolos Congress

Sebastian de Castro y Susara was born on January 20, 1864. His parents were Norberto de Castro, a businessman from Balayan, Batangas, and Estanislawa Susara, who hailed from Puerto Galera, Mindoro Oriental. He was their eldest child. One of his two brothers, Margarito, became a doctor, while the other, Mariano, became a priest. He also had a sister, Crispiniana, but she died young.

De Castro must have obtained his early education in Balayan, a fairly prosperous town known for its fishing and fish processing industries. His parents later sent him to Manila for higher studies.

There are no available records, however, on his medical education. He could have pursued it at the University of Santo Tomas or in Europe.

At about this time, he met Celedonia Francisco y Francia, a Chinese mestiza from Santa Cruz, whom he later married. The couple had six children, namely, Estanislawa, Anastacio, Luis, Pedro, Maximo, and Rosario.

Sebastian de Castro, who also joined the Katipunan, offering to it his services as a physician, became acquainted with popular personalities like Pedro Paterno.

During the revolution, his wife was arrested by the Spaniards in Central

Luzon. She was made to walk all the way to Manila, where she was briefly imprisoned.

With the conclusion of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, Dr. de Castro chose to go to exile with General Emilio Aguinaldo in Hong Kong rather than swear allegiance to the Spaniards.

After the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in the Philippines, he returned home with Aguinaldo. With the establishment of the Malolos Congress, he was appointed delegate of Pangasinan. One of the 17 physicians in the Congress, he was among those who signed the Malolos Constitution, which was promulgated on January 21, 1899.

When civil government was established by the Americans in the Philippines, he accepted its offer for him to serve as the municipal health officer of Gubat, Sorsogon. He held that position for about four years. Sometime during that period, his eldest daughter, Estanislawa - who had finished the seventh grade at the Philippine School of Commerce, the precursor of the present Polytechnic University of the Philippines - taught at the town's elementary school.

After his medical stint in Sorsogon, De Castro lived with his family in semi-retirement in Singalong, Manila. He was suffering from cancer of the throat, and confined his medical ministrations to his neighbors to avoid undue physical strain.

He passed away on October 27, 1932 at the age of 68. His remains are in the Espiritu Santo Church on Avenida Rizal, Manila.

ESTEBAN DE LA RAMA  
(1866-1947)  
Shipping Magnate and Senator

**E**steban de la Rama was a businessman, industrialist, philanthropist, revolutionary general, and senator of the Philippines. By sheer industry, foresight, and resourcefulness, his father, Isidro de la Rama, was able to rise economically from a small-time peddler to a millionaire businessman and owner of the biggest commercial establishment in Iloilo, which sold goods imported directly from Paris, during the Spanish regime. The younger De la Rama was born on December 26, 1866 in Molo, Iloilo. He was a product of the Ateneo de Manila, which he entered after having attended several schools in Molo. From the Ateneo, he was sent by his progressive-minded father to a school in Paris. There, he took liberal arts courses and business management preparatory to his taking over the family business, when he was just 14-years old.

De la Rama was not involved in the first phase of the revolution, from 1896 to 1897. However, in 1898, its second phase, he volunteered his services to the revolutionary movement. While General Emilio Aguinaldo was still in Hongkong, preparing for the resumption of hostilities against Spain, De la Rama, setting the example for other wealthy Filipinos, donated 12 rifles and 12 revolvers to Aguinaldo's army, to which he was later commissioned a general as well as *comandante de marino*.

With the organization of the Malolos Congress, the first republican legislature in Asia, he was named to it as a delegate, representing Iloilo. He

became one of the signers of the Malolos Constitution, which it enacted.

After the Filipino-American War, the Americans offered De la Rama a post in the colonial government. He declined, preferring to devote his time and energy instead to business, agriculture, and industry which, according to him, should be developed hand in hand with the political growth of the country.

He applied his keen business acumen to the growing shipping industry. Before long, the family's shipping line, the De la Rama Steamship Company, ranked among the biggest in the islands, with both ocean-going and interisland ships plying the seas and oceans. The company had agencies in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, and served as agents for the Far East of several Swedish shipping concerns.

De la Rama was the first to put a new German-built boat in coastwise service. Named *M/S Don Esteban*, it was constructed in the Krupp's shipbuilding yard in Kiel, Germany in accordance with the highest standards of the Lloyd's register.

In the field of agriculture, De la Rama introduced scientific farming methods in his hacienda and put up two of the biggest sugar centrals in the Philippines, one in Bago and another in Escalante, Negros Occidental. However, these were destroyed in the Second World War and were never rebuilt.

During the American regime, De la Rama took active interest in veterans affairs. He served as vice president of the *Asociacion de los Veteranos de la Revolucion* and helped organize the National Volunteers of the Philippine Islands.

In the general elections before the Second World War, he was convinced by President Manuel Quezon to run as senator. He won.

He died on November 30, 1947 at the age of 81, leaving behind, among his legacies, an orphanage in his native town of Molo.

VICENTE DEL FIERRO  
(1903-1960)  
Journalist and Writer

Vicente del Fierro was born in Castillejos, Zambales on December 15, 1903.

He had his elementary education in his hometown, then went to high school in Manila. He obtained his bachelor of arts degree in journalism at the University of the Philippines in 1924. While at the U.P., he became editor of the *Philippine Collegian*.

Del Fierro developed not only into a fine journalist, but also a creative writer. His vast readings in English and American literature helped him both as a writer and a teacher of journalism. At the height of his career in the years before and after World War II, he was acclaimed as a "journalist without equal" by his colleagues.

Del Fierro wrote more than 200 poems. Of these, more than half was published in local magazines, like the *Herald Mid-Week Magazine* and the *Women's Outlook*. Among his memorable poems are "Aurora," "The Message of Camia," "Winds," "Silangan," "The Dream That Was Our Yesterday," and "Understanding Mother." One of his poems, "Blazed Trails," appeared in *Harpers Magazine*, a famous American publication. He also wrote about 20 short stories that presented life in the countryside and the gentleness of its people. He was considered as one of the most forceful short story writers in the Philippines after the publication of "On Wings of Fancy"

in the *Herald Mid-Week Magazine*.

His literary productions included two unpublished novels on life during the Japanese Occupation.

Del Fierro was a facile writer with an easygoing style. At the *Philippines Herald*, he was known to turn out about 5,000 words in a day. His writings contained his reflections on people, events, and places of contemporary life. He received letters of praise almost every day from all parts of the world for his courage and frankness. Of course, he also received unflattering letters.

Del Fierro wrote with conviction. He believed that writers needed a lot of encouragement.

Del Fierro became editor of the *Herald Mid-Week Magazine* and the *Monday Mail*. He also did editorial work for *The Fookien Times* before and after World War II. He was the founder of the postwar *Star Reporter*, which was considered free from bias, mainly because of his journalistic integrity. He was also the publisher and editor of the *Zambales Reporter*.

For his journalistic achievements, Del Fierro - who was much admired by his contemporaries, among them Jose L. Guevarra, Macrina Leuteria Illustre, and Jose A. Lansang - was awarded by the National Press Club with a "Gawad ng Katangi-Tanging Paglilingkod Sa Pamamahayag" in 1958.

He died on August 28, 1960.

CEFERINO DE LEON  
(1859- )  
Delegate to the Malolos Congress

**B**orn in San Miguel de Mayumo, Bulacan in 1859, Ceferino de Leon was educated at the University of Madrid, where he received his bachelor of laws degree. He went on to become a member of the Malolos Congress, representing Benguet.

By the end of 1898, the Congress had 94 representatives, of whom 43 were lawyers, 18, physicians, and three, military officials.

Part of the role of the delegates was to come up with a constitution. Several drafts were submitted. Among them were those prepared by Apolinario Mabini and Felipe G. Calderon. Calderon's draft was chosen and deliberated upon from October 25 to November 29, 1898. Except for the controversial provision relating to the relations between Church and State, the draft of Calderon was approved.

De Leon also served as a fiscal of Barotac Viejo and justice of the peace of San Miguel de Mayumo.

He was among the Filipino commissioners to the St. Louis Exposition in 1904.

# MARIANO V. DE LOS SANTOS

(1896-1959)

Prominent Educator

**D**r. Mariano V. de los Santos, president and chairman of the Board of trustee of the University of Manila from 1927 to 1959, was one of the pioneers in private education in the Philippines.

He was born in Angat, Bulacan on March 27, 1896. His father, Mariano de los Santos, was a school teacher. After completing his elementary education in his father's school, he enrolled at the San Juan Letran for his secondary course.

He was only 13 when he earned his bachelor of arts degree at the University of Santo Tomas. In 1912, also at UST he obtained two other bachelor's degrees, one in philosophy and another in literature. A year later, he was awarded his master's degree in philosophy and literature. He received his master of laws degree in 1915.

De los Santos took advanced studies in international law and school administration at the University of Chicago in 1922-24. He then traveled extensively in Europe, observing school practices there and meeting educators. In Leyden, the Netherlands, he got acquainted with a group of young Indonesian nationalists, including Hatta, Soebardjo, and Pamotojnjak, who later became leaders of that country.

De los Santos was the recipient of several honorary doctorates: doctor

of literature, in 1940, from his alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas, which hailed him "an austere and quiet educator"; doctor of laws, in 1958, from the Philippine Women's University, and doctor of pedagogy, in 1959, from the Lyceum of Philippines, which cited him for his "eminent service in the field of private education, spanning almost a lifetime," and "for contributing effectively in the direction and in the molding of its content and ideals."

Although a lawyer, Dr. Santos was more inclined towards being an educator. In 1914, he became a high school teacher. The following year, he helped establish the Instituto de San Pablo in Laguna, and served as its director.

After 1917, he devoted most of his time to the University of Manila. He was its director from 1917 to 1921; dean of the College of Liberal Arts, 1921-24; and dean of faculties, 1924-27. He became acting president of the university in 1927, and then, in 1929, its president, the position he was holding at the time of his death.

De los Santos was also chairman of the boards of trustees of Dagupan Colleges and Baliuag Junior College, which he helped organize in 1926. He was a member of the Quezon Educational Survey Board and was one of the original members of the National Council of Education. He was the educational adviser to six Philippine Presidents — Quezon, Laurel, Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay and Garcia.

In view of what he perceived was the discrimination directed against private institutions of learning in the early years of their existence, he founded the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, of which he was President from 1938 to 1939 and, again, from 1955 to 1958. At the time of his death, he was secretary-treasurer of the association.

De los Santos was chairman of the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission, as well as of the UNESCO National Commission, and member of many other cultural organizations in the Philippines and abroad. He was the founder and first president of the United Nations Associations of the Philippines, which he helped organize in 1947.

He was a member of the Philippine delegation to the 4th General Assembly of UNESCO in Paris in 1949, and chairman of the Philippine delegation to the 8th General Assembly of UNESCO in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1954.

Dr. De los Santos was a confirmed scouter. He was a life member of the

executive board and vice-president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. He served as the organization's international scout commissioner from 1949 to 1958, when he resigned due to ill health. He headed several Philippine Boy Scouts delegations abroad, including the Pan-Pacific Jamboree in Melbourne, Australia, 1948-49; 4th World Rover Moot and International Scout Conference, Elvessaeter, Norway, 1949; International Scout Conference in New Delhi, India, 1959. He was one of the scouting leaders who figured prominently in the holding of the 10th World Jamboree in Makiling, Laguna in 1959.

De los Santos was also a journalist. He wrote for the *Rising Philippines*, *The Philippines National Weekly*, and *The Leader* together with his brother Apolinario, Fernando Maramag, former Secretary of Education Jose E. Romero, and Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo. He authored numerous essays now used as references on private education in the country. In 1953 he published a book of essays and speeches, entitled *Education and Life*, which he dedicated to his wife, Helen D. de los Santos.

On July 3, 1956, as one of the prominent Filipinos honored during the 10th Independence Day celebration, Dr. de los Santos was awarded the Presidential Medal of Merit for his educational achievements here and abroad. It was given on the recommendation of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines. He also received the highest awards given by the YMCA of the Philippines and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, in addition to various citations and testimonials from other civic and cultural organizations.

De los Santos was the first Filipino Asian member of the administrative board of the International Association of Universities. He served in that capacity from 1950 to 1958. He was a member of the international committee of the Boy Scouts International Bureau and chairman of the Far East Scout Advisory Committee. He was one of the organizers of the Association of South East Asian Institution of Higher Learning.

In an article about the late educator, the *Weekly Women's Magazine* said: "of such a man as Dr. De los Santos one could expect (and forgive) a certain feeling of superiority, a certain aloofness and self-importance. But Dr. De los Santos is innocent of either. He remains a soft-spoken, even tempered, unpretentious helpful man. His piercing black eyes and his strong square jaw are the only traces of his iron will. The rest of his physical make-up and temperament is that of a kind, supremely honest, hard working, scholar and teacher. His friends have written of him: 'To remember him is to feel good; and to be with him is to know the company of a kindly and gentle nature.' Even his enemies, if he had any, could not say otherwise."

He was the incumbent permanent president of the University of Manila when he died on October 13, 1959.

# SALVADOR K. DEMETRIO

(1875- )

Assemblyman

**S**alvador K. Demetrio was born in Macrohon, a town created out of Maasin, Leyte, on December 24, 1875. His parents were Monico Demetrio and Monica Kuyzon.

He spent his early schooling in his hometown under a private teacher. From 1890 to 1896, he studied at the University of San Carlos in Cebu, San Juan de Letran in Manila, and at the University of Sto. Tomas, where he took up law, obtaining high marks in all his subjects.

When the revolution against Spain broke out in 1896, he quit his studies to return to his hometown, where he devoted his time to agriculture.

From 1899 to 1901, he worked as a municipal secretary and as a judge's delegate. He acquitted himself in the latter post with such integrity that he also became a notary public while being an official in the Bureau of Census, particularly in the years 1902 and 1903.

When Macrohon was decreed as a separate municipality in 1904, he was elected as one of its councilors. He was reelected as such in 1906.

With Petronilo Gonzalez, Eduardo A. Enage, Anatalio Gaviola, Gorgoño Arito, and Victor Diores, he laid the foundation for a school which would

offer the first two years of secondary education in the municipality of Maasin in 1904.

When this school, the Lyceum of Maasin, where he taught, was temporarily closed, he turned to his agricultural pursuits once more.

On July 10, 1907, he was unanimously chosen by various municipalities in his province to run as delegate to the first Philippine Assembly. Henceforth, he authored a manifesto enjoining all elected officials to serve the public good and not their private interests. In his campaign, he was helped by Fr. Domingo Javier, Eustaquio Rofols, and Jesus de Veyra.

The election for Assembly delegates was held on July 30, 1907. Demetrio, who ran as a Nacionalista, won by a great majority.

VICENTE DE VERA  
(1871-1951)  
1907 Assembly Member

A revolutionary who served in the First Philippine Assembly, Vicente de Vera lived to see the independence of the Philippines in 1946.

A native of Bulan, Sorsogon, he was born on August 22, 1871. He obtained his primary and secondary education at the Seminario de Nueva Caceres in Naga, and then proceeded to the University of Santo Tomas, where he earned his lawyer's diploma in March 1898.

Immediately after graduation, he went to his home province. He was appointed secretary of the revolutionary government of Albay, which he served until 1899. The following year, he became a member of the council of justice of the provincial government.

In 1904, when American rule had been established in the islands, De Vera was elected municipal vice president of Sorsogon. Later, he assumed the post of municipal president. He resigned in 1907, to run as a candidate for assemblyman for the first district of Sorsogon in the elections for the Philippine Assembly.

In that first legislative body, which was run by Filipinos under the Americans, he was chosen as chairman of the committee on justice.

After his term in the Assembly, he served in various government

offices dedicating 40 years of his life to public service.

**De Vera died on April 11, 1951 at the age of 80.**

VICENTE ALVAREZ DIZON  
(1905-1948)  
Art Education Pioneer

**V**icente A. Dizon, the pioneer lecturer on art education in the Philippines, was an outstanding illustrator and painter whose achievements in the field of fine arts earned international recognition not only for himself but for the Filipino people as well.

He was born in Malate, Manila on April 5, 1905. He was the fourth of the 10 children of Jose Dizon and Rosa Alvarez.

His father, a house builder and an agronomist who was with the Bureau of Agriculture (now Department of Agriculture) for a long time, was a native of Bacolor, Pampanga. His mother, whose parents came from Lemery, Batangas, was born in Concepcion, Tarlac.

Dizon studied for the first to the fifth grade of elementary school in Malate, then took his sixth and seventh grade, which he completed in 1920, in the public school of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. He had his secondary education both in Cabanatuan, where he became a member of the Cabanatuan Band, and at the National University in Manila, finishing there in 1924.

His inborn talent for drawing became evident early. Although he had no formal training in art, he was employed as an illustrator for *Liwayway*, a Tagalog weekly, while he was still in high school in 1923.

After high school, he enrolled at the National University for a course in medicine, but shifted to fine arts at the University of the Philippines' School of Fine Arts in 1925. At the same time, he worked at the Roces Publications as an illustrator. He obtained his diploma in painting, with honors, from UP in 1928. Afterwards, he joined the faculty of the National Teachers' College as instructor in a course on art appreciation.

In 1929, he won in an art contest conducted by the United States Federal School of Art in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the same year, he married Lutgarda Inez Henson, the daughter of the well-known Henson family of Angeles, Pampanga. She was then a senior student in pianoforte at St. Scholastica's College.

In 1931, Dizon painted two historical canvases: "The Battle of Zapote Bridge," an interpretative reconstruction of a significant battle during the first stage of the 1896 Revolution, and "The Battle of Tirad Pass," a panoramic view of how General Gregorio H. del Pilar blocked an American military force in hot pursuit of the retreating General Emilio Aguinaldo.

He was the executive secretary of the Philippine Association of Fine and Applied Arts in 1932. In 1934, he published, at his own expense, his book, *Art Education and Appreciation*.

Dizon made watercolor drawings of Filipino costumes, from pre-Hispanic to modern times, and then devised a system of preserving the collection by photographic reproduction.

Dizon won a scholarship for postgraduate work in art at Yale University, where he earned a bachelor in fine arts degree and an art teacher's certificate on June 17, 1936. While there, he gained membership in Phi Alpha, the National Geographic Society, and the American Museum of Natural History, New York. The Cultural centers in New York, Boston, New Haven, Washington, DC, Chicago, and Minneapolis invited him to give lectures on art before he returned to Manila.

Back in the Philippines, he joined the Mapua Institute of Technology as professor of art in achitecture. At the same time, he resumed his teaching at National Teachers College, where he formally introduced the art of finger painting.

In 1939, his painting, "After the Day's Toil," was awarded first prize at the Golden Gate International Exposition, sponsored by the International Business Machines Corporation, in which 79 nations participated. Two years

later, he was included in the Biographical Encyclopedia of America and the Encyclopedia of the World.

Dizon made watercolor and other sketches of scenes from the Japanese occupation in the Philippines, like "Evacuees on the Move," "Death March," "Death of a Chaplain," etc. He had been appointed artist in the US Army's 5th Air Force stationed at Clark Air Base until the surrender of Japan in August 1945. After the war, he joined the University of the Philippines as an associate professor in painting and theory of art.

He was in his early 40's when he fell ill with tuberculosis. Learning of his plight, his alma mater, Yale University, sent him 856 streptomycin capsules for his medication, but he never recovered from his ailment.

Dizon passed away on October 19, 1948, at the age of 43. He was buried at the Angeles Catholic Cementary. He left behind his wife and their four children, namely, Victor, David, Luminoso, and Josephine.

REGINO DORILLO  
(1873- )  
Member, First Philippine Assembly

**R**egino Dorillo represented, the fifth congressional district of Iloilo in the first Philippine Assembly. He was born in Passi, Iloilo on June 7, 1873 to Manuel Dorillo and Michaela Pahunal. He first studied under one of the local maestros, Gregorio "Oyong" Tingson, in Passi. He was later sent to the school run by Manuel Locsin in Molo, Iloilo, where he proved to be a brilliant student. He became proficient in Spanish.

In 1894, Dorillo was appointed as *oficial de mesa* (clerk of court) of the Court of First Instance of Iloilo, which had its seat in Pototan. He served as a major in the army of General Delgado during the revolution.

The establishment of the American civil government in 1901 brought peace to Iloilo. Dorillo assumed the post of census numerator for Passi. During the first popular elections in 1904, he was elected municipal president of Passi.

During his term, Dorillo addressed the problems of banditry, food shortages, and diseases - all remnants of the war. He urged the people of Passi not only to plant more root crops and fruit trees, along with rice and corn, but also to engage in other means of livelihood like raising poultry, hogs, and cattle, and building freshwater fishponds. To prevent the outbreak of epidemics and the spread of diseases, he stressed the importance of

personal hygiene and sound medical advice from health officers.

Dorillo's impressive achievements as municipal president of Passi earned for him the trust and admiration of the people even of other Iloilo towns, so that when he ran for a seat in the First National Assembly during the 1907 elections, he got what he wanted.

As an assemblyman, Dorillo worked harder to improve life among his constituents. He saw to it that abuses by public officials, specially those committed against the poor, did not go unpunished by the law.

His most notable achievement was his authorship of a law that established a national telephone and telegraph system.

Dorillo was a firm believer in popular education. He showed this by donating a parcel of his land to the Passi High School. He also devoted much time to farming. He was actually among the first to adopt modern methods of agriculture.

Dorillo was thrice married, and had five children: two by first wife, Teodolfa Aguilar; two, both girls, by his second Carmen Panes, and one, a girl, by his third wife, Elena Fernandez.

JUAN M. ELIZALDE  
(1902-1944)  
War Hero and Industrialist

One of the four Elizalde brothers who pioneered in business and internationally known sports in the Philippines, Juan M. Elizalde was born in Manila on February 3, 1902 to Joaquin J. Elizalde and Carmen Diaz Moreu. He acquired his education in Spain, the United States, and England. After his studies abroad, he returned home to join his father and brothers in the management and supervision of Elizalde & Company, Incorporated, the family firm which was engaged in commercial and industrial activities.

Established by his father in 1854 as the Ynchausti Compania, the firm began as a ship chandlery store along the banks of the Pasig River.

The growth and expansion of Elizalde & Company, Inc. was largely due to the business acumen and able leadership of its founders, particularly Juan Elizalde, who was its vice-president. He was also the vice-president of the Anakan Lumber Company, and director of the Central Azucarera de Sara-Ajuy. Married to a Californian, Janice Meritt, he was a "model employer who saw to it that his thousands of employees in the varied and extensive business interest of his family lived comfortably, decently, and contentedly."

When the Second World War broke out, Elizalde, a captain in the reserve corps of the Philippine Army, led a small but brave group of Filipino

guerrillas known as the "28 Men of Fort Santiago." This underground resistance movement, whose operation he personally supervised and financed, worked closely inside enemy territory to provide the commander of the United States Forces in the Far East (USAFEF), General Douglas MacArthur, daily reports of Japanese defenses and troop movements in the Philippines. The Japanese placed it under close surveillance through a counter-espionage group.

In early February 1944, Elizalde, along with the rest of the "28 Men of Fort Santiago," was arrested. They were confined in the dungeons of Fort Santiago in Manila. Elizalde pleaded with the Japanese to have his companions freed, saying that as the leader of the group, he alone should be punished. He told them that he was solely responsible for the sinking of 38 Japanese warships. His admission and pleas in behalf of his comrades went for naught. They were taken to the Chinese Cementary compound, where they were beheaded on August 29-30, 1944.

For his heroic wartime exploits, particularly as leader of the "28 Men of Fort Santiago," Elizalde posthumously received the Distinguished Conduct Star Medal.

JOSE A. ESTELLA  
(1870- )  
Composer and Piano Virtuoso

**A** prolific composer, Jose A. Estella was born in Escolta, Manila in 1870. He showed great interest in music even in his childhood years.

Estella was sent to Spain to take up formal studies in music at the Conservatory of Music of Madrid. Upon his return, he conducted actual research on the indigenous music of the Philippines. He visited different provinces, collecting and transcribing their outstanding folk songs.

Apart from giving piano lessons, Estella composed a lot. His musical works were varied. He composed more than a hundred waltzes and a number of hymns, polkas, and military marches. He also composed zarzuelas, like "Sangla ni Rita," "Opera Italiana," "Filipinas para los Filipinos," and "La Venta de Filipinas al Japon." His other works include "Veni, Vidi, Vici," an opera in one act; "Filipinas," a symphony, and "Ultimo Adios de Rizal," an ode.

One of his most popular compositions, "Ang Maya," figured prominently in the film that starred Consuelo Salazar and Fernando Poe. His "La Tagala" waltz, which he dedicated to the Germinal Tobacco Factory, found its way to the Library of Congress of the United States in 1903. Another waltz, "Forever and a Day," was sung by Mrs. Jewel during his concert at the

Filipino Theater on the night of November 18, 1899, in cooperation with Prof. Francisco P. de Barbat and some 60 musicians. His "Apoteosis a Rizal," a hymn, was performed by a grand chorus accompanied by an orchestra at the Libertad Theater on December 30, 1899.

Estella was well-known also as a piano virtuoso, conductor, and a historian of Filipino music. However, little is known of his personal life and genealogy.

JACOBO FAJARDO  
(1876- )  
Public Health Pioneer

**D**istinguished physician and surgeon, Dr. Jacobo Fajardo was the director of the Bureau of Health (now Department of Health) during the American colonial period.

He was born to Justino Fajardo and Andrea Puno in Bacolor, Pampanga on July 26, 1876. He completed his bachelor of arts degree at the Colegio San Juan de Letran in 1891.

While still a medical student, he married Antonia Jacinto of Manila on July 30, 1900. In 1902, he joined the government health service, also while he was still a student.

Married and working, he pursued his studies, completing his doctor of medicine degree at the University of Santo Tomas in 1905. Afterwards, he served as president of the municipal board of health in Arayat, Pampanga.

Well-known as a hard-working health worker, he was urged by the people of the town to run for the post of deputy in the Philippine Assembly, which he handily won in 1909.

While serving as a legislator, he authored a bill, later to become known as the Fajardo Bill, which served as the foundation for the massive organi-

zation and efficient administration of public health services in various provinces and municipalities in the country.

When his tenure as deputy in the Philippine Assembly ended in 1912, he stayed on in the government service as district health officer. He was assigned first in Negros Oriental and, later, in Pangasinan. Then, he was sent to Mindanao, where he remained until 1921.

In Mindanao, Dr. Fajardo pioneered in the organization of public health centers. He also established infirmaries and opened health classes for government personnel as part of his public health awareness program on the island.

Fajardo was the first Filipino physician to receive a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The grant gave him the opportunity to travel extensively in the United States and Europe as part of his research and study on public health problems.

In 1921, he was promoted as chief of the division of provincial sanitation in Manila. In 1924, he was appointed director of health.

As health director, he made frequent inspections of the health units throughout the country in order to give impetus to his fight against the ravages of the diseases common in the Philippines. Thus, he earned the distinction as the country's "pioneer in public health work."

# PRAXEDES FAJARDO

(1874-1928)

Pampangueña Patriot

**P**raxedes Fajardo headed the Philippine Red Cross in Pampanga during the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War.

She was born on July 21, 1874 in Bacolor, Pampanga into a distinguished family. Her grandfather, Anselmo Jorge Fajardo, was a priest who served as a delegate to the Spanish Cortes during one of the rare times the country was represented in the lawmaking body of Spain. A writer as well, Fr. Fajardo was the author of "Gonzalo de Cordova," a popular *comedia* written in three volumes. Her father, Justino Fajardo, was a *cabeza de barangay* of Bacolor while her mother, Andrea Puno, belonged to one of the town's affluent families.

Praxedes was one of four Fajardo children, the others being Florencia, Jacobo, and Anselmo. She obtained her education from the La Consolacion Convent in Manila.

During the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, Praxedes Fajardo was asked to lead the Red Cross in Pampanga. She organized a group of women, and, together, they collected food, clothes, and medical supplies which they distributed to the families of the soldiers killed or wounded in battle. She successfully harnessed the help of the people of Pampanga, among whom was Matea Rodriguez Tuason, one of the richest women in the

province - she contributed substantially to the Red Cross and the provincial government. Displaying uncommon managerial acumen, Fajardo made sure that the donated goods were properly stacked at the Bacolor convent and the provincial capitol, and then equitably distributed to their intended beneficiaries.

Fajardo was one of the two women who prevented what could have been a bloody affair in a dispute between two revolutionary generals, Antonio Luna and Tomas Mascardo.

General Luna, who was known for his violent temper, came to Bacolor on his way to arrest and punish General Mascardo for alleged insubordination, which had been blamed as one of the causes of the defeats of the Filipino forces by the Americans. When he who was about to leave with his troops for the neighboring town of Guagua, where Mascardo was holed up with his men, Luna was met by a group of kneeling women, led by Fajardo and Nicolasa Dayrit Panlilio, who begged him not to proceed with his plan. Moved by their pleas, he relented, thus, a dreadful confrontation between the two revolutionary generals and their men was averted.

Fajardo never married. After the Filipino-American War, she lived with the family of her sister, Florencia, who had married Mateo Gutierrez Ubaldo. She took care of her sister's family, which grew quite big. An excellent cook, she pampered her nieces and nephews with her superb cooking. She once won first prize for her native pickles, better known as *atchara*, at a food contest held at the Manila Carnival.

Her nieces and nephews, to whose upbringing she devoted the rest of her life, all became successful professionals.

She died on August 10, 1928 at the age of 54.

LORENZO FENOY  
(1873-1926)  
Educator and Legislator

**L**awyer, educator, and member of the First Philippine Assembly, Lorenzo Fenoy was born on August 10, 1873 in Bauang, La Union, to Jorge Fenoy, a blacksmith, and Eufracia Orduña.

He had his early education at the school of Benedicto Luna in Manila. He was only 14-years-old when he earned his bachelor of arts degree at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. He then took up law at the University of Santo Tomas but didn't finish the course due to the outbreak of the Revolution of 1896. It was the Universidad Científico y Literaria de Filipinas, founded by the revolutionary government, which awarded him his *licenciado en jurisprudencia*.

In 1893, he and Gregorio Romulo, assisted by Domingo Dizon, established the Colegio de la Nuestra Sra. de Rosario, a primary school, in Trozo, Manila. It existed until 1896. In 1898, he was elected to the Malolos Congress and then appointed captain in the revolutionary government. However, these election and appointment were later annulled, thus prompting him to leave for Batangas. There, in the latter part of 1898, he opened Filipinas Libre, a primary school, in the town of Taal. The school remained open for only a year.

He became active again in the revolutionary government when he got elected as vice-president of the Gobierno Departamental del Sur de Luzon.

After peace was established in the country under American rule, he once again founded a school, this time offering both primary and secondary instruction, in Bautista, Pangasinan. Named after his former teacher, the school, the Benedicto Luna Institute, lasted until 1908.

During this period, Fenoy entered politics. Under the Nacionalista banner, he ran for a seat in the first Philippine Assembly, winning over Joaquin Balmori. He served as delegate for the fourth district of Pangasinan.

In the Assembly, he was a member of the committees on bills, elections, judiciary, posts and telegraphs, and rules. He was a co-author of the bill making May 1 of every year an official public holiday for labor.

In 1910, he founded the Philippine Institute in Manila. It offered primary, intermediate, and high school courses. It closed down in 1912 when he reentered politics.

As a lawyer, Fenoy was associated with such well-established and distinguished colleagues as Francisco Ortigas, Trinidad Icasiano, Luciano de la Rosa, Teofilo Aguilar, and Bernabe de Guzman.

He had a talent for languages, too. He could translate poems from French to Spanish, and from Spanish to Tagalog.

Fenoy passed away on October 5, 1926. He was survived by his wife, the former Anisia Dedal, whom he married on April 8, 1895, and their 13 children. One of his sons, Jose, followed in his footsteps and became a lawyer.

MELECIO FIGUEROA  
(1842-1903)  
Renowned Artist and Engraver

A contemporary of Juan Luna, Melecio Figueroa y Magbanua was one of the Filipino artists who achieved international recognition, demonstrating that the Filipino could excel in the arts which were formerly reserved for the Europeans. Apart from being an artist, he was a master engraver, professor of the arts, and member of the Malolos Congress.

Figueroa was born on May 24, 1842 in Arevalo, Iloilo. He came from a humble family. His parents were Rufo Figueroa and Gabriela Magbanua.

According to Artigas, Figueroa used his mother's maiden surname, Magbanua, but this was disproven by his daughter Blanca, who had a copy of his father's marriage certificate.

His mother died when he was still young, and his father moved to Sorsogon to join his brother, Melecio's uncle, leaving the boy and his sister in the care of their aunt, Juana Yulo, a cake-maker and vendor.

At an early age, Figueroa showed a talent in wood-carving. He made wooden carabaos, boats, and dolls, which he gave away to attract patrons to his aunt's business. Nothing is known about his early education.

Figueroa's artistic skill attracted the attention of Francisco Ahujas, the *consejero* of Filipinos in Madrid, who agreed to support his education in

Spain together with another Filipino. Thus in 1866, Figueroa was sent to Madrid and enrolled at the Escuela de Artes y Oficios. At the end of his term, he received a prize for his excellent work. Later, he transferred to the Academia Superior de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, where he took a special interest in engraving and sculpture.

During the school year 1872-1873, he won a medal for sculpture. The following school year, he won a citation for engraving. And in the third school year, 1874-1875, he won medals for sculpture and engraving.

In March 1876, his benefactor, Don Francisco, died, leaving him without financial support. Ajuhas' death almost ended his career. Figueroa found himself doing odd jobs around Madrid so he could continue his studies. Later, he opened a watch repair shop. The keeper of the Academia offered him lodging at the school.

In 1875, he exhibited one of his works, a wax bust of King Alfonso XII, during the Exposicion de Bellas Artes in Madrid. In 1879, the Academia awarded him a fellowship in recognition of his excellent academic standing. This enabled him to go to Italy and visit its art centers, like Rome and Florence. He was actually one of two scholars given the chance to study in another country. The other was also a Filipino, Alejo Vera, who later became an art teacher and a friend of Juan Luna.

While he was in Rome, Figueroa made a bust of Prince d'Odellaski. After he returned to Spain, he designed and engraved the medals for the awards of the Exposicion de Filipinas, which was held in 1887. Figueroa was also appointed member of the jury of awards by no less than the King.

In 1888, he presented a die in the Exposicion Universal held in Barcelona, for which he received a bronze medal. During the same year, he also did some painting. One of his works carried the title, "El Tiempo Liberando a España de la Esclavitud."

In 1892, Figueroa returned to the Philippines. He was appointed professor of engraving at the Escuela de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado, as well as first class engraver at the Casa Moneda, the mint of the colonial government. He also established a silversmith's shop and a studio for sculpture, painting, and engraving.

In 1894, he made a bust of the wife of Intendente General Jimeno Aguis. It elicited much praise. He also prepared the molds of the medals which were awarded at that year's *Exposicion Regional de Filipinas*.

The outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896 did not seem to have affected the career of Figueroa. However, during the second phase of the Revolution, he was appointed member of the Malolos Congress, representing his home province of Iloilo. There is little mention, though, of his participation in that body.

At the onset of the American period, Figueroa served as professor at the Liceo de Manila, where he taught until his death in 1903.

Figueroa may be best remembered for his attractive and symbolic design of the Conant Coins, introduced in 1903 in accordance with the law passed by the United States Congress, entitled, "An Act to Establish a Standard of Value and to Provide for a Coinage System in the Philippine Islands." Figueroa's design was selected from among those of several competitors.

Figueroa's engraving have been admired for their purity in details, classic taste, and neatness. According to Fabian dela Rosa, a famous painter, Figueroa "was the only Filipino engraver who had developed engraving from its purely artistic aspect with unsurpassed efficiency and enviable success."

Figueroa was married to Enriqueta Romero y Gonzales, whom he met in Spain. They were blessed with five children, three of whom were born in Spain and died in the Philippines.

Figueroa had been weakened by tuberculosis, which he contracted in Spain during his years of hardship there. He died on July 30, 1903, and was buried at the cemetery near Tanque, Paco, Manila.

LEONA FLORENTINO  
(1849-1884)  
Foremost Ilocana Poet

**T**he internationally acclaimed Ilocano poet Leona Florentino was born in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, on April 19, 1849. She belonged to a rich Ilocano family. Her father was Marcelino Florentino and, her mother, Isabel Florentino.

Leona Florentino and Jose Rizal were distant cousins. Felix Florentino, Rizal's grandfather from his mother's side, was a close relative of her father and mother.

Despite their wealth, she and her many brothers and sisters were well disciplined by their mother. Like most parents of her time, Doña Isabel firmly believed in the old saying that to spare the rod is to spoil the child. The children were given tasks to perform. From their mother they learned the dignity of manual labor.

Like her eminent cousin in distant Calamba, the precocious Florentino, who was sickly as a child, learned to read early, with her mother as tutor. She composed her first verses at the age of 10.

Like other Filipino women of her time, Florentino did not receive a higher education, as the majority of the people then did not approve of women getting such an education. She learned to speak Spanish under the

tutelage of Fr. Evaristo Abaya, the town's parish priest, who encouraged her poetry writing.

When she turned 14, she was married to Elias de los Reyes, once an *alcalde mayor* of Ilocos Sur. They had five children, of whom the oldest would eventually become a senator, Isabelo de los Reyes, now deceased.

She wrote many poems and plays in Spanish and Ilocano. Some of her poems were exhibited at the Exposicion General de Filipina in Madrid in 1887 and at the International Exposition in Paris in 1889, where they attracted wide attention and won fame for her country.

Florentino actually wrote on many subjects, specially on love, morality, and religion. She also wrote many dramas, most of which, however, were lost. She praised good and criticized evil. She also wrote about the lives of middle-class Ilocano families.

Unfortunately, most of her literary works were destroyed during the Philippine Revolution. A big library in Paris, however, has preserved some of them, and they are accessible to the interested scholars.

Some of the best poems of Leona were: "To a young woman on her birthday," "Castora Benigna," and "Leon XIII."

She died in Vigan on October 4, 1884, at the age of 35.

Leona Florentino is considered by many as the foremost Filipino poetess.

VICENTE FOZ  
(1866-1944)  
Member of the Malolos Congress

**V**icente Foz was born on March 5, 1866, in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. He was an offspring of Eustaquio Prudencio Foz's first marriage, to Evarista Marques Romasanta.

Foz came from a well-to-do family. His grandfather served as *capitan municipal* of Vigan for several terms. His father, a successful lawyer, was appointed *promotor fiscal* for Tondo, Manila, accredited as a lawyer of Bulacan, and appointed as *magistrado suplente* in the *Audiencia de lo Criminal* of Vigan. The older Foz did not take part, however, in the revolutionary government.

Foz studied at the Colegio de Juan de Letran for his bachelor of arts degree, and at the Liceo de Manila, for his law degree.

He practiced his profession and even had his law office, in partnership with Saucer and Lao.

Eventually, he became justice of the peace of Binondo.

In 1898, he was elected to represent Ilocos Sur in the Malolos Congress along with Ignacio Villamor, who was also elected, and Francisco Tongson and Mario Crisologo, who were both decreed to represent Ilocos Sur.

Foz also became a delegate to the National Assembly.

He died on April 29, 1944 in Sampaloc, Manila.

## HIGINO FRANCISCO

### Revolutionary Patriot

A patriot of rare civic virtues, Higino Francisco y Prospero played a crucial role in saving the life of Felipe Agoncillo, who would later be a very important diplomat in the government-in-exile of President Aguinaldo, during the tumultuous year of 1896.

Agoncillo was then a wanted man from Taal, Batangas. He had been ordered to be deported to Jolo, Sulu by the Spanish colonial government, but had eluded arrest by the Guardia Civil and gone to Manila.

Hunted by the law, Agoncillo tried to seek refuge in the homes of several of his relatives and friends in the city, but all of them refused to let him in for fear of being implicated in his crime. Finally, almost in desperation, he knocked at the door of a house on Magdalena Street in Tondo. Its occupants were unknown to him. He just took a chance that they would take him in for the night. It turned out that its owner was Higino Francisco, an unassuming patriot, who not only gave him shelter but also helped him book a passage on board a Japanese vessel, the *Heorimi Maru*, bound for Yokohama, Japan.

Agoncillo left the Philippines on April 28, 1896. After a fortnight in Japan, he proceeded to Hong Kong to join other Filipino expatriates.

It was also Higino Francisco who had planned to rescue Dr. Jose Rizal

either from his Spanish jailers at the place of his confinement or from the hands of his custodians at the time of his scheduled execution in Bagumbayan. He was, however, dissuaded by Rizal's family from carrying it out.

Upon learning of his design, the authorities raided his house. Their search yielded a large number of firearms. On account of this, he was put in jail, tried, and sentenced to death. He was saved from the gallows by the government's 1897 proclamation of general pardon.

Francisco had aided Dr. Rizal in his patriotic endeavors. As a token of gratitude, Rizal presented him the original manuscript of his novel *Noli Me Tangere*. Knowing that it would fetch a high price later, Francisco, however, returned it to the mother of the hero. Long after the revolution was over, the government did buy it for P30,000.

The street in Sulucan Estate in Sampaloc known as Miguelin was later renamed Higinio Francisco in the patriot's honor, but due to a contractual provision involving the estate, its name was changed back to Miguelin.

Francisco died in December 1921.

ISAURO GABALDON  
(1875- )  
1907 Assembly Member

**A** native of Nueva Ecija, Isauro Gabaldon was born on December 8, 1875.

His well-to-do parents sent him to Cuenca, Spain for his studies. He enrolled at the Colegio of Quintana del Rey and, later, at the Colegio Villanueva de la Jara, where he finished the degree of *bachiller en artes* in 1893.

Gabaldon then took up law at the Universidad Central de Madrid. However, he was not able to finish his legal studies there, and went back to the Philippines. He resumed these at the University of Santo Tomas, where he graduated with a law degree in 1900.

After passing the bar examinations, he engaged in private law practice from 1903 up to 1906, when he decided to enter politics.

That year, the new American colonizers, having established a civil government in the Philippines, allowed the election of local officials. Gabaldon ran for governor of Nueva Ecija and won handily. He did not serve his entire three-year term, though, because shortly thereafter, he sought another public office, that of delegate to the First Philippine Assembly, which was established in 1907 according to the Philippine Organic Act, or the Cooper Act of 1902. Gabaldon was elected assemblyman, representing the lone

district of Nueva Ecija, under the aegis of Nacionalista Party.

As assemblyman, Gabaldon is best remembered for authoring the law providing for educational services to far-flung areas in the country. Popularly known as the Gabaldon Act, it authorized the appropriation of one million pesos — a large amount at that time, for the construction of school-houses in every municipality, especially in the barrios. Some of them, called "Gabaldon schools," still exist today.

Gabaldon authored other social legislations, like those extending government protection to small farmers, tenants, and rural workers.

He was reelected to the Assembly in 1909.

When the Philippine Senate, by virtue of the Jones Law, was established in 1916, Gabaldon stood for election as senator for the third senatorial district, and won. He served for two consecutive terms.

Aside from politics, Gabaldon was also involved in agriculture and business. He owned large estates which produced rice and sugarcane. He was the organizer and president of the Pidatan Petroleum Company, president of the East Surigao Gold Fields Inc., and chairman of the board of trustees of the Santa Catalina Gold Mines.

A well-travelled man, Gabaldon was fluent in Spanish, English, and French.

He was married to Bernarda Tinio, who also hailed from Nueva Ecija. They had two children.

TROADIO D. GALICANO  
(1869- )  
1907 Assembly Member

**A** lawyer, Troadio Galicano was one of the members of the First Philippine Assembly, which was convened in 1907. He represented the province of Cebu.

Born in 1869 in the town of Carcar, Cebu to Guillermo Galicano and Crisanta Dayagro, he attended the Colegio y Seminario de San Carlos in Cebu City, where he obtained his secondary education and then studied dogmatic theology. His parents had wanted him to become a priest, but when they observed that he was more interested in being a lawyer, they sent him to Manila to take up legal studies at the University of Santo Tomas. The young Galicano, however, could not be admitted to its law college since he lacked the right educational background.

Returning to Cebu, he introduced himself to Mariano Cui, the judge of the Court of First Instance in Barili, whom he persuaded to give him private lessons in the study of law. Judge Cui had him tutored from 1893 to 1897, when the Luzon-based revolution against Spain erupted in Cebu on April 7, 1897 under the leadership of Leon Kilat.

After peace was restored following the Filipino-American War, Galicano worked as a clerk at the Court of First Instance in Cebu City to gain experience in legal work. In 1903, he became a member of the committee revising local land taxes and, in 1904 to 1905, he was assigned as officer-in-

charge of the auxiliary justice of the peace in the city. The following year, he passed the bar examinations conducted by the Supreme Court.

Entering politics, Galicano was elected as a member of the 1907 Philippine Assembly, representing the fifth district of Cebu. In 1925, he was elected senator for the 11th senatorial district, serving as such until 1931.

BENJAMIN CORTEZA GASTON  
(1913-1974)  
Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Public Service

**B**enjamin Corteza Gaston was born on December 11, 1913 in Silay, Negros Occidental. He was the eldest of the 11 children of Emilio Gaston and the former Amparo Corteza.

The Gastons were of French ancestry. They were pioneer sugar planters and millers who formed part of the leading economic and political forces in the province. Emilio Gaston established the Talisay Milling Company and, with other family members, formed the Victorias Milling Corporation, one of the largest sugar producers in the world. In the field of politics, he was a co-founder of the Nacionalista Party and was elected governor of Negros Occidental in 1933.

Benjamin Gaston first attended school in Negros. He enrolled in a bachelor of arts course at the Ateneo de Manila but was not able to finish his studies. He was called home when his father died in 1936 to take over the family responsibilities.

During the worldwide economic depression in 1933 and 1934, many workers in the sugar industry in Negros were laid off. They turned for help to Benjamin's father, who was then provincial governor. Cooperating with President Manuel L. Quezon's social justice program, he caused the distribution to farmers of land in the Daconcogon Valley under the Land Settle-

ment and Development Corporation (LASEDECO) program. Before embarking on it, however, he sent his son, Benjamin, to consult with Fr. Joseph Mulry, the elder Gaston's friend and former professor who was also President Quezon's adviser on social justice. "When you do give land, public land, make sure you do not give it on a silver platter," the old priest said. "That way, a man loses his dignity." The younger Gaston remembered that wise counsel and adopted it as a working principle.

Governor Gaston allowed the unemployed sugar workers to settle in the isolated valley, which was in the southern part of Negros Occidental, provided that they tilled the land, built a 34-kilometer access road, and established a village council form of government. They were to obtain their seeds and other agricultural needs from the private sector.

Benjamin Gaston became acting president and then vice president of the Nacionalista Party in Bacolod from 1937 to 1962, and served as its campaign manager during elections. He was elected provincial board member of Negros Occidental. He served as such from 1958 to 1962, during which time he also assumed the post of vice governor. In the national elections in 1965, he ran as senator under the Progressive Philippine Party, whose presidential candidate was Raul Manglapus, but lost.

During the presidency of Ramon Magsaysay, Gaston was administrator of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) in Negros Occidental and was one of those responsible for the further settlement of the Daconcogon Valley.

Gaston remained involved in his family's sugar business and twice served in two trade missions to the United States to press Washington for an increase in the country's sugar quota. He was consultant to the Elizalde Sugar Central and was vice president of the Soriano Enterprises, whose business included sugar.

Gaston was also active in the Rotary International. He was elected as its district governor for the Philippines in 1948-1949, the first to be chosen as such outside Manila.

Gaston briefly studied how cooperatives worked in Boston College and new methods of farming for a semester at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture in Los Baños.

A well-traveled man, Gaston developed his nationalistic economic philosophy from observations of the countries he had visited. Gaston

believed that the Philippines should have an integrated agro-industrial economy built on the needs and products of agriculture, with the means of production being publicly owned. He employed this philosophy in the Daconcogon Valley through the establishment of cooperative projects for the farmers who had settled there.

His deep involvement in uplifting the lives of the Daconcogon Valley settlers started in 1958. In response to their appeal for a transportation system that would enable them to sell their farm produce themselves in the provincial markets and not be forced to do so at reduced prices through Chinese middlemen or their Filipino dummies, Gaston set up Rural Transit. It was poor business, but he was more concerned with serving the people than anything else.

In 1967, at the Diocesan Rural Congress in Bacolod which he presided, Gaston joined forces with Bacolod Bishop Antonio V. Fortich to form the Daconcogon Producers Cooperative Marketing Association, described as "an experiment in human and rural development." Gaston proposed that the Daconcogon farmers switch from rice and corn to sugar cane production not only because it could avail of commercial and government financing but also because he foresaw an expanding world market for sugar. In February 1968, he and Bishop Fortich helped establish the Daconcogon Cooperative Marketing Association. Their socio-economic initiatives in behalf of the settler-farmers were capped in August 1969 with the inauguration of the Daconcogon Sugar and Rice Milling Company, with Gaston as president. Fortich became president of the cooperative.

On June 3, 1971, the mill produced its first sugar. By 1973, it was processing 1,500 tons of cane daily.

Gaston and Bishop Fortich followed three points in the management of the sugar mill and the cooperative: 1. no farmer would lose his land if the project failed; 2. nothing would be asked or accepted except what was necessary to get started, and 3. to become cooperative members, farmers must meet their civic obligations, like paying the land tax which most of them had not paid before.

In 1972, they switched positions, Gaston becoming president of the cooperative and, Fortich, of the sugar mill.

The two gave credit for the immense success of the Daconcogon project to several factors. First, the cooperation among the Church, government, and the private sector, particularly the political, financial, and sugar elite. Sec-

ond, the *bayanihan* spirit that was reinforced in Daconcogon Valley because of its isolation. Third, the trust shown by both the government, the leadership of the cooperative, and the National Investment and Development Corporation. And finally, the trust reposed in the ability and drive of the small farmer-planters to manage an economic enterprise toward productivity.

In 1973, Gaston and Bishop Fortich shared the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in recognition of their successful experiment in rural development in Daconcogon Valley.

Gaston's desire to help the poor was influenced by his involvement during his younger days in the cursillo movement, when he pledged to spend part of his time in pursuit of such goal. Before he assumed the presidency of the Daconcogon Rice and Sugar Milling Company, he had been vice president of the Soriano Enterprises for 20 years. He gave up that comfortable job to translate in concrete terms his ideals of development through the cooperative.

In the course of his work at Daconcogon, he became an authority on cooperatives - "Philippine style."

Gaston was married to Ruth Araneta Dreyfus, whose family was also of French descent and one of the pioneers in sugar planting and milling in Negros Occidental were related to the Dreyfus family in France who became involved in the persecution of Jews during the 19th century in the famous "Dreyfus Affair."

The Gastons had three sons and six daughters. Their oldest son, Jimmy, served as chairman of the youth movement of the PPP. He was among the first to anticipate the role of the youth in bringing about changes in society. However, he died of a liver ailment at the age of 25 while serving with his father in Daconcogon.

Benjamin Gaston himself passed away on May 30, 1974 at the age of 60.

ARISTON GELLA  
(1869-1921)  
Delegate to the Malolos Congress

**P**harmacist, educator, and member of the Malolos Congress, Ariston Gella y Rendon was born on February 29, 1869 in Pandan, Antique. He was the eighth of the 10 children of Bonifacio Gella and Juana Rendon, who both came from the same province.

Like his brothers, Gella studied in Manila, at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. In 1886, he and his brother Pedro served as assistants in the Colegio de San Vicente which another brother, Vicente, had founded in San Jose, Antique. He resumed studying in 1891, at the University of Santo Tomas. There he obtained his licentiate in pharmacy in 1895, becoming the first Filipino pharmacist from his province.

During the same year, he married Carmen Guevara, whose family hailed from the town of Marikina in Morong province (now Rizal) and Santa Cruz, Manila. They had seven children - Vicente, Amparo, Carmen, Manuel, Alfredo, Milagros, and Rosario.

When the revolution against Spain broke out the following year, he evacuated his young family, which included his eldest child Manuel, who was then not more than a year old, to the mountains of Montalban to escape the hostilities.

In the Visayas, which seemed peaceful and unaffected by the events in Luzon, the revolution broke out in the open after Aguinaldo's return from

Hong Kong, culminating in the establishment of a federal government. In that government, Gella's brother Vicente was elected councillor, representing Antique.

On October 4, 1898, Gella himself was appointed to the Malolos Congress, representing Samar and, later, his home province. He eventually became one of the signers of the Malolos Constitution.

After the end of the Filipino-American War, Gella established a small drugstore in Trozo, Manila, but he fell ill and had to liquidate his business to go to Antique to recuperate. After he had fully recovered, he returned to Manila and worked as a pharmacist in the drugstore owned by Olimpio Guanzon in Bustillos, Sampaloc, Manila. Later he transferred to the Philippine General Hospital, where he became head pharmacist. He also served for a term as a member of the Board of Pharmaceutical Examiners.

Gella passed away on April 26, 1921 in Marikina, Rizal at the age of 52.

MANUEL GOMEZ  
(1859-1945)  
Health Secretary During American Regime

A physician who became a member of the Malolos Congress and one of the signers of the Malolos Constitution, Manuel Gomez y Martinez was born in Santa Cruz, Manila on June 29, 1859. His parents were Hipolito Gomez and Magdalena Martinez.

Little is known about his early education, although it is believed that he had it in Manila. He obtained his bachelor of arts degree from the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila in 1875. He then enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas, where he took up medicine, graduating in 1881.

After completing his medical studies, he was appointed medico titular, or medical officer, of the province of Antique. He rendered invaluable services at the Hospital de Tanduay during the devastating epidemic which occurred on Panay island and many other parts of the country in 1882. The following year, he was appointed medico titular of the town of Morong, in Morong province, now Rizal. He served as chairman of the commission to study the sanitary conditions of Taytay during the cholera epidemic of 1888. In 1889, he was transferred to Manila, and served as medico municipal of Trozo. He also served as physician to the old gentry of Manila, such as the Tuason and Leyva families. He knew Rizal and was said to be instrumental in securing the alcohol lamp which contained his poem "Mi Ultimo Adios."

As an official of the government, Dr. Gomez refused to receive any gift

from all those who had benefited from his services, and dutifully returned all such items to their donors, to the embarrassment of his family.

When the first Philippine Republic was established in Malolos, Gomez was appointed as a delegate to the Malolos Congress, representing Bataan. He was a member of the committee on style of the Constitutional Convention.

During the deliberations on the Charter, he sided with Felipe Calderon and his group, who advocated the union of Church and State. However, it did not make it in the constitution.

In 1900, Dr. Gomez was appointed lecturer at the faculty of medicine of the University of Malabon, where he taught hygiene. When the American military interlopers adopted a policy of attraction to win Filipino intellectual elements from Aguinaldo, he left the service of the revolutionary republic health worker for the poor in the district of Santa Cruz. Taking note of the high mortality rate in the country at that time, he made studies on the causes of deaths, which he traced to infectious diseases, aggravated by poor sanitary conditions. He then made an effort to encourage the people to undertake proper hygienic practices, like in the disposal of wastes and the preparation of food.

After the Filipino-American War, Gomez was appointed secretary of health in 1901. That same year, he became a member of the board of trustees of the Colegio de San Jose.

Gomez was among the few who accompanied on a trek to Baguio Dr. Dean Worcester, then the secretary of the interior and concurrently member of the Philippine Commission, to study the feasibility of converting that highland sanctuary into a health station for American soldiers and officials convalescing from diseases and a rest area for Americans who were unaccustomed to the hot and humid climate of the lowlands. The trek, done by horseback on mountain trails, was a tortuous one. Gomez developed a bad case of rheumatism which plagued him for the rest of his life.

In 1904, he became a member of the honorary commission to the St. Louis Exposition. The following year, he was appointed chief of the bureau of statistics at the Department of Health. He was also named as a lecturer on social statistics and sanitation at the University of the Philippines, as well as secretary of the Council of Hygiene. In 1925, he quit the government service and retired to private practice.

During the liberation of Manila by American forces in 1945, Dr. Gomez

sheltered in his house in Malate around 100 refugees fleeing the fighting and the Japanese atrocities. This area in the southern part of the city bore the brunt of shellings and bombardments, with the trapped Japanese marines and sailors digging in the area for their last stand. An artillery round made a direct hit at the house, killing the doctor and many others inside. Gomez was 85-years-old.

# JUAN BAUTISTA PERFECTO GORORDO

(1862-1934)

## First Filipino Bishop of Cebu

**J**uan Bautista Perfecto Gorordo was selfless, zealous, and altruistic spiritual leader who spent most of his lifetime serving the youth and the afflicted.

He was born in Barili, Cebu on April 26, 1862. His father, Juan Bautista Gorordo, was a Spaniard and his mother, Telesfora Garces, a native of Cebu.

In 1874, his parents enrolled him at the Seminary of San Carlos, then under the direction of the San Vicente de Paul fathers. His inclination for the priesthood became apparent when he withstood the 11 years of rigorous training it took to complete the course in philosophy and theology, with meritorious academic marks. He was ordained priest by Bishop Madridejos on April 20, 1885.

His first clerical assignment was as coadjutor in the neighborhoods of San Nicolas and Opon. Later, he was designated by Bishop Martin M. Garcia Alcocer as chaplain in the cathedral.

In 1899, upon the withdrawal of Bishop Garcia Alcocer to Manila due to the Revolution, he was named secretary and notary of the ecclesiastical curia and made administrator of the religious properties of the diocese.

Pope Pius X appointed him as domestic prelate of His Holiness in 1905.

In 1907, he served as one of the members of the *Concilio Provincial* which was held in Manila. In 1909, he was named titular bishop of Nilopolis and auxiliary bishop of Cebu. On June 24 of the same year, he was consecrated by the Most Rev. Mgr. Ambrosio Agius, apostolic delegate, assisted by the Rt. Rev. D.J. Dougherty, then bishop of Jaro, and the Rt. Rev. J.J. Carrol, then bishop of Nueva Segovia.

On March 3, 1910, he was appointed apostolic administrator. It was during his term that the two-story Santo Rosario Girl's dormitory, the three-story college building of San Carlos College, and several churches in the provinces of Cebu and Bohol were constructed. It was also during his term that the periodicals *Ang Camatuoran*, in Spanish and Sugbuanon, and *Boletin Catolico*, both diocesan organs, were founded.

Bishop Gorordo not only attended to the spiritual needs of the leper inmates in Cebu but also donated to the provincial government a 54-hectare lot in Consolacion town on which a place for them, the Eversley Child's Leper Station, was built. He also readily gave church land for use as a public park or for the construction of a schoolhouse. He donated food, clothing, and even money for the victims of cholera epidemics, famines, and typhoons.

Gorordo was a very energetic prelate. While he was still a young priest, he made journeys on foot, since there were no good roads then, to the different towns in Mindanao. Even when he was already a bishop, there were times when he would forget to take his meals for hours while attending to his religious duties. Eventually he contracted tuberculosis.

Bishop Gorordo passed away on December 20, 1934.

Of his personal fortune, worth some P200,000, 40 percent was donated to the church and the rest was left to his relatives.

MAXIMO GREGORIO  
(1856-1896)  
One of the 13 Martyrs of Cavite

**M**aximo Gregorio, called Nol Chimo by his neighbors and friends, was one of the "Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite." He was born on November 18, 1856 in Pasay, then Rizal province, the second of the three children of Francisco Gregorio, who hailed from Badoc, Ilocos Sur, and the former Celedonia Santiago, who was a native of Pasay.

He studied at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, but never got to finish his schooling, as he was drafted in the Spanish army. After undergoing training in San Antonio, Cavite, he joined Regiment No. 72, which was sent on an expedition to Jolo to fight and pacify the Moros. Upon his discharge, he secured an appointment as an encargado in the commissary of the Spanish army in Cavite, a job he held for 20 years.

He was initiated into Masonry in April 1892, and later joined the Katipunan. He was active in both societies. He supported the work of Filipino propagandists in the Philippines as well as abroad.

Gregorio was a civic-minded person who never tolerated abuses by the authorities.

Upon his admission into the Katipunan, he became busy organizing its branches in Cavite. Under him, two local groups were established. Balangay

No. 1, named "Marikit," was formed in Barrio San Antonio around 1894. When its membership reached 25, Balangay No. 2, named "Lintik," was formed in Barrio San Rafael. Both barrios were in the town of San Roque. The activities of the Katipunan reached the provincial capital due to the membership of Eugenio Cabezas, a watchmaker, and Eulalio Raymundo, a tailor - their shops were located in the capital - in Balangay Marikit. Its other members included Severino Lapidario, the provincial warden, Feliciano Cabuco, and Jose Lallana, another tailor. Gregorio thus became the principal organizer of the Katipunan in Cavite, there being no single supreme leader named for the entire province of Cavite.

The uprising in Cavite was planned for September 1, 1896, but Gregorio wanted concerted action among all the revolutionists, so it was moved to September 3-4. Unfortunately, it was not a well-kept secret. Victorina Crespo, Governor Fernando Parga's wife, found out about it from her dressmaker. Judge Pedro Solano sensed something was a foot when he suspected his *cochero* and his brother of stealing some cartridges and a knife from his house. Henceforth, the authorities arrested Severino Lapidario, his assistant Alfonso de Ocampo, and Luis Aguado. They were taken to the boat *Ulloa*, where they were forced to confess to the charges brought against them after doing three hours of continuous labor. All this happened on September 3, thus frustrating the revolutionists' second plan.

From the declaration of Ocampo, the authorities learned that among the *cabecillas*, or little leaders, of the local revolutionists were Victoriano Luciano, Hugo Perez, Agapito Conchu, Pablo Jose, Marcos Jose, and Juan Castañeda of Imus, and that those above them were Maximo Inocencio, Francisco Osorio, Luis Aguado, and Severino Lapidario. Osorio and Inocencio were charged with procuring arms and munitions. The authorities also learned that the revolutionary unit's secretary was Feliciano Cabuco, and that plans for the uprising were perfected in the house of Maximo Gregorio.

From the declaration of Lapidario it was learned that the incitement to take up arms came from Eugenio Cabezas, who, on August 31, was sent by Aguinaldo. From Aguado it was learned that the houses of Antonio San Agustin and Jose Lallana, besides that of Gregorio, were used by the revolutionists as meeting places.

As a result of these declarations, the authorities affected mass arrests.

On September 12, 1896, the 13 doomed men were taken by fours out of their cells, conducted to the Plaza de Armas of Fort San Felipe, and shot at 12:45, noontime. Ocampo had to be carried bodily to the execution site due

to a wound he had incurred. The dead bodies of Conchu, Gregorio, Cabuco, Cabezas, Lapidario, and Ocampo were placed on a carabao-drawn cart and covered with *bangkuwang* mats, and then taken to the Catholic cemetery of Caridad, where they were dumped in a common hole. Those of the other martyrs were allowed to be taken by their well-to-do families, who buried them in separate graves.

On September 12, 1906, 10 years after the mass execution, the bodies of six of the victims were exhumed and deposited in a vault in a monument erected in honor and memory of all the 13 Cavite martyrs to freedom.

Gregorio's known hobby was that of wine-making. He made it out of *basi* which came from Badoc in *tibor* jars. His product was enjoyed as a *placer de la reunion* and as a *delicia de la mesa*.

He was married to the former Esperanza Legaspi - who died in 1899 - and they had nine children. Only four of them reached maturity - Agripina, Francisco, Pilar, and Josefa.

WILFRIDO MA. GUERRERO  
(1911-1995)  
Outstanding Playwright & Theater Director

One of the country's theater luminaries, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero - playwright, actor, director, and drama critic—was born in Manila on January 22, 1911, the son of Dr. Manuel S. Guerrero, a prominent essayist, and Eliza Ocampo.

Guerrero, who started writing at the age of 12, belonged to a highly cultured clan. His uncle, Fernando Ma. Guerrero, was the prince of Filipino lyric poetry in Spanish. The writer and diplomat Leon Ma. Guerrero III was a cousin of his. So were the sisters Nilda Guerrero-Barranco and Evangelina Guerrero-Zacarias, both poets who were winners of the Premio Zobel. Another cousin, Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil, is an accomplished essayist in English.

Guerrero had his exposure to the theater at the Manila Grand Opera House, where his mother often took him to watch performances of the works of Echegaray, Buenavente, and Ibsen. The experience inspired him to become a playwright.

Guerrero wrote in Spanish and, later, in English. He was attending grade school at the Ateneo de Manila when he came out with his first play, "No Todo es Risa" (Not All is Laughter), which was staged during the rector's birthday. In 1934, he wrote his first English play, "Half an Hour in a Convent" while he was a student at the University of the Philippines.

Guerrero also studied at the Gregg Business School. He was not able to finish any college degree, however, because he preferred to write plays. He decided to make the theater a profession in 1940 after he presented a three-part play, "The Forsaken House," for the Catholic Women's League.

Guerrero was a drama critic for the prewar *Manila Tribune*. Earlier, he worked as a reporter and proofreader for *La Vanguardia*. In 1939, he was the scriptwriter for Philippine Films. He started directing in 1940 when he formed a group called Filipino Players, which he led until 1947.

During the Second World War, he directed and staged plays in Manila and the provinces. His plays, which were in English with Filipino translations, were popular during that period. Often, he acted some of the roles in these plays.

Guerrero wrote and directed around 100 plays. Among his famous works were "Women are Extraordinary" (1937), "Hate Begins" (1938), "Romance in B Minor" (1939), "Movie Artists" (1940), "Forever" (1941), "Condemned" (1944), "Frustrations" (1944), "Wow These Americans" (1946), "Perhaps" (1947), "Three Rats" (1948), "Deep in My Heart" (1951), "In Unity" (1953), and "Our Strange Ways" (1953).

From 1950 to 1951, he was the writer and director of the radio drama "Dulaan ng Buhay," which was sponsored by the lard maker Purico. In 1959, he directed six plays for the "Caltex Caravan."

Guerrero was named assistant professor in dramatics at the University of the Philippine in 1947. His appointment caused an uproar, with members of the academe protesting it for his lack of a college degree. The university justified it by pointing out that despite such shortcoming, he excelled in his field. He was later appointed director of the UP Dramatic Guild. In the 16 years that it was under his guidance, the guild staged more than 120 foreign and Filipino plays and, in the process, turned out actors and directors who would become nationally known not only in theater but also in films, like Behn Cervantes, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Jun Roy, Joy Virata, Celia Diaz-Laurel, and Joonee Gamboa.

In 1962, Guerrero formed the UP Mobile Theater at the instance of Carlos P. Romulo, who was then UP president. The troupe chalked up some 2,500 performances over the country, presenting plays in English and Filipino and, later, in regional dialects.

Guerrero retired from UP in 1982. He was named professor emeritus the following year. For his exemplary contributions to the University's

cultural life as professor of drama and director of the UP Dramatic Guild and the UP Mobile Theater, the UP named the theater in the Arts and Science Building after him in 1976.

Guerrero's plays appeared in a number of collections, namely: *13 Plays*, published in 1947; *8 Other Plays*, 1952; *7 More Plays*, 1962; *12 New Plays*, 1971; *My Favorite 11 Plays*, 1976; *4 Last Plays*, 1980, and *18 Plays Translated in Filipino*, 1985.

Critics hailed Guerrero as the country's foremost dramatist. According to Nick Joaquin, national artist, his plays were always staged better than they read, which was proof they were authentic theater. "His theater is farce rather than comedy but first-rate farce." Celso Al Caranungan, who described him as "a Filipino who spoke about Filipinos for the whole world," noted: "Guerrero's plays show clearly that he knows his milieu, whether it be the simple impassioned life of barrio folks or the brassy, artificial and corrupted life of the middle class society and those of politicians."

Guerrero received the Rizal Pro Patria Award for Drama in 1961, the Patnubay ng Sining at Kalingan, given by the city of Manila, in 1969, and the Republic Cultural Award for Literature in 1972. He was also the recipient of the Ateneo de Manila University's Tanglaw ng Lahi award, 1981; the Aliw Award for Playwriting, 1982; the Diwa ng Lahi Award, 1985, and the First Gawad CCP sa Sining for Theater, 1989.

He died on April 28, 1995 at the age of 84.

FRANCISCO V. GUILLEDO  
(1901-1925)  
"Pancho Villa" of Boxing Fame

**B**etter known as "Pancho Villa." Francisco V. Guilledo was the first Filipino world flyweight boxing champion.

He was born in Ilog, Negros Occidental on August 1, 1901. His parents were Rafael Guilledo, a cowhand in the *hacienda* of Don Victorino Rodriguez in La Carlota, and Maria Villaruel. He was only about six months old when his father left him and his mother to join in the United States Navy.

Growing up without a father, he helped his mother tend the goats she raised on the farm. At the age of 11, he went to Iloilo City to work as a bootblack in front of the old Cine Lyric. It was during this time that he befriended a boxer named Manuel. Later, the two adventurous lads boarded an interisland vessel for Manila to seek their luck in the big city.

They settled in the slums of Palomar in Tondo. While Manuel earned their keep by boxing, he found time to enroll at the Meisic Public Elementary School on Reina Regente Street. It was in this school that he met a noted boxer in Manila, Elinio Flores. They became friends and sparring partners.

In one of their sparring sessions, Flores introduced his boxing manager, Paquito Villa, an executive of the ice plant on Aviles Street. Villa became interested in Guilledo when he saw how he boxed. Although only about five feet tall and weighing less than 100 pounds. Guilledo floored Flores, who

stood five feet six inches tall and weighed 132 pounds. The introduction of Guilledo to Flores' manager was the turning point in his life. In 1918, Villa legally adopted him as his son and renamed him "Pancho Villa," the name by which he became famous in the boxing world.

Pancho Villa had his first professional fight in 1919 as a substitute for his friend, Manuel, who was sick at the time when there was a scheduled bout against Kid Castro. He won, but he was reprimanded by his manager foster father and trainer - for fighting without his consent and against his wish for his adopted son not to fight professionally. However, upon learning that he did it for a friend, Paquito Villa forgave him.

At age 20, Villa had become a tough boxer with a brave heart. He never weighed more than 114 pounds when not training. On February 21, 1921, he dethroned Terrible Pondong as the Philippine flyweight champion. In another important fight, he knocked out Australian flyweight champion George Mendies.

His boxing triumphs were largely inspired mainly by a woman. Regrettably, when his sweetheart, Gliceria Concepcion, broke off with him, he left Manila on February 20, 1922 and returned to Negros, vowing not to fight again. However, his growing fans wouldn't let him be. Heeding their clamor, he donned his boxing gloves anew to face a local boxer named Max Mason, whom he knocked-out.

Following his return to the ring, he invited Paquito Villa to visit him in Negros. There, his foster father showed him a cablegram from an American promoter, Tex Richard, and asked him if he wanted to fight in the United States, a prospect that excited him.

With Paquito Villa, featherweight boxer Elinio Flores, and American promoter Churchill, he left the Philippines aboard the *SS President Grant*, and landed in New York in May.

His fight in America took place in Jersey City on June 7, 1922, against Abe Attel Goldstein. He won, but his victory was not so sensational. He also won on points his next fight, against Frankie Genaro, in New York. He lost the return bout against Genaro on August 22, 1922, but the decision was rapped by the boxing writers. To appease them, the boxing promoters gave him a chance to fight Johnny Buff, the American flyweight champion on September 15, 1922. He knocked-out Buff in the 11th round, and became the new US flyweight champion. He had his crack at the world title, then held by Jimmy Wilde of Wales on June 18, 1923 at the Polo Grounds in New York. During the bout, the majority of the 23,000 spectators cheered him on,

shouting "Viva Villa!" Villa did not disappoint them. He floored Wilde twice, in the fourth and fifth rounds, before knocking out the game but badly battered champion in the seventh with a crashing right to the jaw. His glorious conquest of the world flyweight championship made him famous in America.

One day, while he was still in New York, Villa received an unexpected caller. The stranger introduced himself as Rafael Guilledo. Recalling what his mother used to tell him, he knew that the man standing before him was his long-lost father. Calling him "Sir," Villa pressed into his hands \$5,000. His father was working as a boiler on an American liner anchored in New York Harbor at that time. After a week, the ship left and Villa never saw his father again.

In September 1924, Villa returned to Manila after he was granted a postponement of his title defense against a boxer he had fought twice before, Frankie Genaro, because he had bursitis in a shoulder and elbow. He arrived to a hero's welcome in Manila in October and was feted with a parade followed by a reception at Malacañang Palace.

With his wife, Gliceria, he visited his boyhood home at the Rodriguez farm in La Carlota. Shortly thereafter, a local boxing promoter, Serafin Y. de la Cruz signed him up for four exhibition bouts in Iloilo City's old lyric Sporting Club. He won them all. After receiving his P1,000 purse, he went around town, handing out five and 20-pesos bills to shoe-shine boys and his fellow boxers.

He returned to Manila for his scheduled bout against Clever Sencio. Staged at the Open Air Gymnasium in Wallace Field on May 2, 1925, the crowd-drawing bout, which Villa handily won, served as a tune-up for his overweight non-title fight against the American Jimmy McLarnin. It was scheduled on July 4, 1925 at Ewing Field in Oakland, California.

Back in the US, Villa signed up for the McLarnin fight on June 8, 1925 with the assistance of Frank Churchill. He was at the peak of his preparations when about four days before it was to be held, his face became swollen due to an ulcerated tooth. There was no time to cancel the fight. Despite the pain he suffered and the doctor's finding that his gum was already infected, he insisted on going ahead with the fight. When he finally faced McLarnin the ring, Villa was practically a one-fisted as he used one of his hand chiefly to protect his afflicted face. He lost but the close decision that went in favor of McLarnin was nevertheless disputed by many of the fans.

Three days later, the three remaining wisdom teeth of Villa were pulled

out by a dentist, who then told him to rest. However, the very sociable former world boxing champion ignored the advice and went out carousing with his friends for several days.

On July 13, 1925, a doctor found that his gum infection had spread to the throat. The condition was diagnosed as Ludwig's angina. Villa was taken to the operating room, but he passed out on the operating table. He died the following day.

In August 1925, the humbly born but street-smart Francisco Guilledo, who gained fame and fortune as the world boxing titlist Pancho Villa was laid to rest at the North Cemetery. In October 1961, or 36 years later, the prestigious *Ring Magazine* added his name to the boxing's "Hall of Fame."

DIMAS GUZMAN  
( -1909)  
Dramatist and Assemblyman

**D**imas Guzman was born in Cabagan, Isabela. However, there is no record of his birth or his parents' names.

He was a translator and dramatist in Ibanag, and a member of the First Philippine Assembly.

During the Spanish colonial government, he was a recipient of the *Cruz de Cabellero de la Orden de Carlos III* and other medals of the *merito civil* class for the services he had rendered.

Guzman worked as an agent of the *Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas*. Later, he founded the *Compañia Cagayan*. It became a subsidiary agency of the Germinal firm which manufactured cigars. From this he accumulated much wealth. He became the richest person in Isabela during his time.

Guzman was appointed governor by President Emilio Aguinaldo during the revolutionary period. He was an able leader who did not hesitate to use his personal funds to defray the expenses of his administration. He also drew from his own pocket to make sure that his troops were well maintained.

Guzman translated the Municipal Code into Ibanag and wrote the

following dramatic works: "La Auitona", "Pananaman to Aya Annahiga," and "Tatagueno nga Bulauan."

He died on March 18, 1909.

# DELFINA HERBOSA-NATIVIDAD

(1879-1900)

Rizal's Niece, Katipunera

**A** niece of the national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, Delfina Natividad y Herbosa was born on December 20, 1879 to Mariano Herbosa and Lucia Rizal, the hero's sister.

Her father, who died of cholera, was denied a Christian burial by the Spanish friars on the flimsy excuse that he had not gone to confession. It was obvious, however, that the real reason for their refusal was because he was a relative of Rizal, whose novel, *Noli Me Tangere*, exposed their abuses. This incident, as well as other acts of persecution perpetrated by the Spaniards on her family and other people, aroused in the young Delfina a strong sense of nationalism and an ardent desire to fight oppression in any form.

In July 1893, a year after the Katipunan was formed, Delfina, then only 13-years-old, joined its women's section. She was initiated into the secret revolutionary society along with her aunts, Josefa and Trinidad Rizal, and her cousin, Angelica Lopez Rizal. It was in the Katipunan that she met her future husband, Jose Salvador Natividad, whom she married on February 19, 1898, when she was 19. They were together in various battles against the Spaniards.

Her husband later became one of the generals of the Philippine Revolution, and was among the 70 revolutionary leaders present at Biak-na-Bato. Along with Pedro Paterno, he was appointed by Emilio Aguinaldo to

negotiate the historic truce for the Filipinos with the Spanish colonial government. However, he was rejected by Governor General Primo de Rivera, who preferred the more moderate and accommodating Paterno. He was prevented from signing the Pact of Biak-na-Bato when it was concluded on December 14, 1897.

Delfina accompanied her husband on his self-exile in Hong Kong along with Aguinaldo and other revolutionary leaders as provided by the pact.

Sometime in March or April, Aguinaldo commissioned Felipe Agoncillo's wife, Marcela, to sew a flag for the Philippine Republic. Marcela then asked Delfina to help her and her daughter, Lorenza, to do the task, which was finished in five days. The flag was taken to the Philippines when Aguinaldo returned aboard the U.S. Navy vessel *McCulloch* after the battle of Manila Bay. It was unfurled by Aguinaldo from his house in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898 after he proclaimed the independence of the Philippines.

She was only 21 when Delfina Herbosa Natividad died on March 10, 1900.

ADRIANO HERNANDEZ  
(1870-1925)  
Ilongo Revolutionary

**A**driano Hernandez was born on September 8, 1870 in Dingle, Iloilo to Fernando Hernandez, a Spaniard, and Lucia Bayot, a Visayan. He studied at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, where he received his bachelor of arts degree.

Hernandez was the *capitan municipal* of Dingle when the "Cry of Barrio Lingud" during the Philippine Revolution took place. He himself gave that first cry of independence. Later, he became a general in charge of the engineering corps which constructed fortifications and trenches in Jaro, Leganes, La Paz, and other strategic points in Iloilo. He was also entrusted with mapping out the operational plans of the revolutionary army in the province.

When the revolutionary government, known as the Council of State of the Visayas, was established in Iloilo on November 17, 1898, Hernandez was designated as chief of staff of the local liberation forces. He was also designated as the delegate of Iloilo to the Malolos Congress.

He left for Manila but was not able to proceed to Malolos, Bulacan due to the outbreak of hostilities between Filipinos and Americans. He was caught by the enemy and detained because of his revolutionary activities. When the City of Manila fell in February 1899, Hernandez returned to Iloilo

and helped reorganize the rebel ranks.

Hernandez rejected American rule and their offer of amnesty for Filipino rebels in exchange for the recognition of their sovereignty over the Philippines. He took to the field, clashing with their forces while trying to gather the remaining rebels into guerrilla columns. Due to his poor health, however, he was eventually forced to surrender.

When peace was reestablished in the country, Hernandez became the manager of the *Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas* in Negros Occidental. From 1900 to 1907, he figured prominently in the rapid growth of the sugar industry of Iloilo. Through his ceaseless efforts, more sugar centrals were established, cash loans to various sugar cane planters were granted, and new sugar haciendas were opened.

In 1904, Hernandez was elected councilor of Silay, Iloilo. In 1907, he was elected delegate of the fourth district of Iloilo to the first Philippine Assembly. As an assemblyman, he worked for the modernization of agriculture, the expansion of commerce and industry, and the amelioration of the laborers' lot in the province, as well as the establishment of the Aganan and Suage Rivers' irrigation system. In 1910, he was elected governor of Iloilo, a position to which he was reelected in 1913.

In 1914, Hernandez was appointed as assistant director of agriculture. When T.H. Edwards retired as agriculture director in 1916, he was named in his place, thus becoming the first Filipino director of agriculture.

A firm believer in the courage and gallantry of the Filipino, Hernandez donated the bonus he received from Tabacalera to help in the construction of the concrete mausoleum for the veterans of the Philippine Revolution in Manila.

He died at the age of 55 on February 16, 1925, leaving behind his wife, Carmen Gaviera, and six children.

BENITO IBAN  
( -1897)  
Martyr of the Revolution

One of the "Nineteen Martyrs of Aklan," Benito Iban was the younger brother of Candido Iban, who was among the organizers of the Katipunan in Panay.

Candido Iban was a close friend of Francisco del Castillo. Both had worked in Australia as fishermen and pearl divers. The two were inducted into the Katipunan in 1894 by Procopio Bonifacio, the Supremo's brother. They were the ones who donated the money, which was part of their winnings in a lottery, to buy the press used in printing the Katipunan paper, *Kalayaan*.

After the discovery of the Katipunan on August 23, 1896. Andres Bonifacio sent them to Panay to establish a chapter of the Katipunan there. They arrived in Aklan, Capiz, on Christmas Day of 1896, and lost no time in initiating the first members of the Katipunan in Panay. The secret organization spread to the towns of Kalibo, Banga, Batan, Jimeno, Lezo and Malinao.

Benito Iban was among the first Aklanons to be recruited by his brother. He became one of the local Katipunan leaders. As such, he helped conduct secret meetings and made plans for the impending revolt.

The signal for the outbreak of hostilities came after the Spanish navy seized the fishing boat *Santisima Trinidad* on March 10, 1897. The boat was

owned by Francisco del Castillo, who had been designated a general in the ranks of the Katipunan, and his brother, who was Del Castillo's second-in-command. It carried important documents which could implicate them and other Katipunan members. On that day, Del Castillo launched the revolution in Panay with an attack on the townhall of Kalibo, Aklan. The plan was for him to lead the attack, with Iban reinforcing him from Malinao. The rebels were easily defeated during the initial skirmishes. Among those killed was General Del Castillo. Iban was later captured in Malinao.

Leaderless and disorganized, the remnants of the Katipunan tried to regroup. Meanwhile Spanish reinforcements, under Colonel Ricardo Monet, arrived. While preparing his men for an offensive against the rebels, Monet, not knowing what he was really up against, made a ploy. He announced an amnesty, promising not to punish any rebel who would surrender. Among those who took advantage of the offer was Benito Iban. Once he and the others turned themselves in, however, they were instead arrested. In all, 20 rebels, including Iban, fell into the trap. Only one of them, Nicanor Gonzales, was spared from torture because his pretty mestiza wife, Fructuosa Meren, pleaded on her knees for her husband's freedom.

On March 23, 1897, the remaining 19 prisoners - Ramon Aguirre, Tomas Briones, Domingo dela Cruz, Valeriano Dalida, Claro Delgado, Angelo Fernandez, Simeon Inocencio, Isidro Jimenez, Catalino Mangat, Lamberto Mangat, Valeriano Malinda, Maximo Mation, Simplicio Reyes, Canuto Segovia, Gabino Sugang, Francisco Villorente, Gabino Yonsal, Benito Iban, and his brother, Candido - were taken to a *camarin*, or warehouse, on Amadeo Street in Kalibo, where they were tortured. At around midnight, they were set up against a wall, and shot.

The following morning, their dead and mutilated bodies were placed on carts and paraded in the town plaza to serve as a warning to those who would defy the power of Spain. In the afternoon, the corpses were thrown into a common grave which was left unmarked to prevent their countrymen from venerating them as martyrs.

As a tribute to their supreme sacrifices, the people of Aklan have since erected a monument in their honor in Kalibo, and renamed Amadeo Street as "Nineteen Martyrs Street."

CANDIDO IBAN  
(1863-1897)  
One of the 19 Martyrs of Aklan

**B**orn in Liloan, Malinao, Capiz on October 3, 1863, Candido Iban was to become known as one of the "19 Martyrs of Aklan." He was the fourth son of Florentino Iban and the former Maria Irruegas. Both his parents were farmers. He received his primary education at the parochial school of Malinao.

Iban was the adventurous type. As a young man, he went to Iloilo and, from there, proceeded to Negros, where he worked as a laborer in the sugar haciendas. After some time, he took a boat to Manila together with Francisco Castillo. Later on, his parents learned that he was working in Australia with Castillo.

After winning in a lottery in 1894, he sailed back with Castillo to Manila. On the boat, they met and got acquainted with Procopio Bonifacio. Upon landing in Manila, he and Castillo joined the Katipunan.

At that time, the Katipunan badly needed to have its own printing press, which, however, it could not afford to buy. Upon learning of this, Iban and Castillo gave money for that purpose. The press was set up temporarily in a small house on the corner of what is now Oroquieta and Zurbaran Streets. This was also where Andres Bonifacio lived. The press had to be moved from place to place to avoid detection by the Spaniards. That press printed not

only the forms and the Kartilla of the Katipunan but also its periodical, the *Kalayaan*.

Later on, Iban joined Castillo in Capiz. There, Castillo had already organized a local Katipunan branch with Albino Rabaria, Roman Aguirre, and others. Iban enjoined his brother Benito to be part of the organization. He also went around the barrios and towns of Kalibo, Batang, Balete, Banga, Lezo, and Jimeno (now known as Altavas) to enlist prospective members. With the assistance of Nemesio Yonsal, the local Katipuneros were able to build a house in Liloan for their headquarters.

On March 16, 1897, the men under Yonsal and Castillo were poised to enter and take the town of Kalibo. They had planned to attack it the following day. However, when Castillo entered the town and demanded an audience with the *capitan municipal*, he was met with a volley of shots, which caused his men to disperse. Iban was supposed to join this force, but he was seized on the road and consequently jailed in Lezo.

Colonel Ricardo Monet, the head of the Spanish force assigned to quell the uprising, issued a proclamation granting pardon to insurgents who would surrender to him. It turned out to be a ruse. Instead of pardoning them, he threw those who had surrendered into the stone prison of Kalibo. Later, he picked out 19 of the many incarcerated insurgents and, without a trial, ordered them shot on March 23, 1897. Among them were the brothers Candido and Benito Iban.

In memory of these 19 martyrs to freedom, a monument has been erected in Kalibo.

HUGO ILAGAN  
(1844-1907)  
Member of the Aguinaldo Cabinet

**H**ugo Ilagan, lawyer and educator, was born in Indang, Cavite, on April 8, 1844. He was the son of Felix Ilagan, a merchant engaged in the coffee business, and Felifa Lopez.

At the tender age of 10 or 12, he left home and went to Manila. He lived with priests, doing chores for them in return for the privilege of studying. In this way he was able to finish the law course at the University of Santo Tomas around 1870. Among his classmates were Antonio Ma. Regidor, Felipe Buencamino, Sr., Florentino Torres, and Mamerto Natividad, Sr.

He then practiced law for some time. Later, he became *relator de la Real Audiencia* and provincial fiscal of Laguna. Subsequently, he opened a private school in Manila for students of the *segunda enseñanza*.

Upon the establishment of the Philippine Republic in Malolos, Bulacan, President Emilio Aguinaldo invited him to join the cabinet as *secretario de hacienda*. He was also made a member of the revolutionary Congress, both in Malolos, 1898, and in Tarlac, Tarlac, 1899.

Ilagan was imprisoned by the Americans in Fort Santiago for a short time.

During the elections for the delegates to the first Philippine Assembly

in 1907, he was prevailed upon to run in Cavite in opposition to Rafael Palma. On account of his advanced age and the intensive campaign, he suffered a heart attack and died in July of that year.

Ilagan had several children by his wife Eustaquia. One of them, Mauricio, became a member of the Philippine Assembly in 1909.

VICENTE ILUSTRE  
(1869-1928)  
Revolutionary Propagandist and Senator

Vicente Ilustre was born on September 8, 1869 in Taal, Batangas. His parents were Ramon Ilustre and Ignacia Encarnacion. At the age of 12, he attended the Ateneo Municipal de Manila in 1881. In 1889, he studied law at the University of Santo Tomas, finishing the course after seven years. He passed the bar examinations in 1905.

Ilustre was known for his patriotism, noble character, and selfless dedication to his people and his country. It was these traits that made Dr. Jose Rizal use Ilustre as the model for his character Isagani in the novel *El Filibusterismo*.

In 1896, Ilustre was persecuted as a filibustero. This led to his departure for Spain. He studied at the Universidad Central de Madrid, where he earned his doctor of laws degree.

While in Spain, he began writing political essays for various metropolitan newspapers. On February 10, 1898, he penned a manifesto which set forth the program of reforms advocated by the Colonia Filipina Reformista de Madrid.

In 1899, Ilustre was elected vice president of the Junta Revolucionaria Filipina de Madrid. He declined the position, however, for he planned to

return to the Philippines the following year. Nevertheless, when he reached Hong Kong on his way home, he was convinced to join the Junta Central Revolucionaria de Hong Kong as its *director de diplomacia*. Through the junta's connections with similarly organized bodies in other countries, Ilustre occasionally published pamphlets, handbills, and newsletters which enabled many Filipinos abroad to follow the progress of their compatriots' libertarian campaign in the United States.

Ilustre figured prominently in the hostilities that soon followed the Philippine-American War. As a director of the Hongkong Junta, he submitted the Philippine question for the last time on October 10, 1901 to the President of the United States.

As one of the five Filipino members of the Philippine Commission, Ilustre served as chairman of the important Committee on Mindanao and Sulu during his 1913-1916 term. On October 3, 1916, during the elections for the first Philippine Senate, he ran as candidate for the fifth senatorial district. Despite having turned down the offer of the ruling Nacionalista Party to join its bandwagon and running as an independent, he won with an overwhelming majority.

After his senatorial term, Ilustre pursued his law practice and took up an interest in agriculture.

He died of a heart illness on September 27, 1928.

CARLOS IMPERIAL  
(1880-1941)  
Supreme Court Jurist

Carlos Imperial was born in Albay, Albay on November 4, 1880. He was the son of Paciano Imperial and the former Josefa Duran. He had his elementary education in a private school in his native town. After receiving his bachelor's degree from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, he became some sort of a businessman. He saved money to further his studies at the Escuela de Derecho de Manila and, later, at the Universidad de Santo Tomas. He graduated in 1902, and was admitted to the practice of law that same year. In 1910, he got married to Rosario Boncan. They had a son, Filemon.

In 1907, he was elected deputy to the first Philippine Assembly, representing the second district of Albay. He ran with the Progresista Party ticket.

Later, Imperial was appointed assistant attorney in the Bureau of Justice. From there, he was promoted to the bench, as judge of the Court of the First Instance, successively, in the provinces of Ilo-ilo, Cebu, Bataan, Zambales, and Tayabas. He was transferred to Manila in 1920.

On June 22, 1932, he was elevated to the Supreme Court as associate justice, upon the recommendation of American Governor-General Dwight F. Davis to President Herbert Hoover, who readily appointed him to the

post.

He died in the service on May 20, 1941, at age 60.

During the Philippine Revolution, Imperial served as a captain in the revolutionary army.

# ANTONIO JAYME

(1854-1937)

Revolutionary, Provincial Governor and Assemblyman

**B**orn on July 24, 1854 in Jaro, Iloilo, Antonio Jayme was the oldest of the seven children of Aguado Jayme and the former Sabina Ledesma, both from Jaro.

While their children were still young, the Jaymes moved to Silay. Through hard work, they were able to develop a tract of land which they eventually turned into a sugar plantation.

Antonio Jayme had his early education at the Jaro seminary where his uncle, Father Francisco Jayme, was the first rector. He studied philosophy and letters, from 1869 to 1871, at the same institution. In 1872, he left for Manila and enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. After finishing his *segunda enseñanza* there, he entered the University of Santo Tomas, where he obtained his *licenciado en jurisprudencia* in October 1881.

Jayme began his law practice in Bacolod in 1882. He entered the government service later, serving as justice of the peace and then judge of the Court of First Instance in the province. In 1898, during the second stage of the Philippine Revolution, he played an important role in the surrender of Spanish troops in the province. Upon the formation of the provincial government of Occidental Negros under Aniceto Lacson, he occupied the seat of secretary of justice.

Jayme remained general counselor of the provincial government despite the division in its leadership, which saw one group in favor of American sovereignty and another group against it. Through his tact and good judgment, he was able to prevent clashes and animosities from erupting between them.

In the general elections of 1904, he won as provincial governor over Esteban de la Rama, his strongest opponent.

As governor, Jayme was able to hasten the pacification of the province. He saw to the construction of school buildings to encourage enrollment, and conducted a campaign against gambling and other vices, as well as against vagrancy and banditry. Under his administration, the political and social conditions in the province improved. He sought remedies to its problems by suggesting modifications in existing laws and the enactment of new ones.

Due to his performance as governor, he was elected representative of the first district of Occidental Negros to the First Philippine Assembly in the general election of 1907. In the Assembly, he served as a member of the committees on provincial and municipal governments, city of Manila, and revision of laws, and chairman of the committee on police. He authored a bill which sought the abolition of capital punishment.

After his tenure as assemblyman, he returned to his private law practice until his eyesight began to fail him.

Early in his professional life, Jayme taught at the Instituto Rizal. He also wrote articles and was a contributor to the periodicals *La Libertad*, published in Bacolod in 1900, and *La Razon*, which appeared in 1906. He used the following pen names: P. Moral, Farole, Mansilingan, Panagao, and G.G. He also engaged in agriculture. In fact, he was one of the organizers of the Bacolod-Murcia Co., Inc.

Jayme died on October 19, 1937, leaving behind his wife, the former Genoveva Gamboa, and their four children - Angela, Antonio, Emilia, and Carlos.

PEDRO V. JIMENEZ  
(1875- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

Pedro V. Jimenez was born on August 1, 1875 in San Jose de Buenavista, Antique.

He attended the college of V. Gella in San Jose for his primary education. In 1890, he pursued his studies at Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila, graduating there in 1893 with a bachelor of arts degree. He then took up law at the University of Santo Tomas, but in 1898, he returned to his province because of the revolution. He eventually finished the course in 1905.

Jimenez was one of the many lawyers who became members of the first Philippine Assembly. He represented Antique.

Of the members of the assembly, the oldest was Nicolas Jalandoni, who presided over the opening session. At the time, Jimenez was 32-years-old. It was Manuel Quezon who nominated Sergio Osmeña, then 28-years-old, for the speakership. His rival for the position was Pedro Paterno, the negotiator of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, but the latter withdrew. Quezon became majority floor leader and Vicente Singson Encarnacion, the minority floor leader.

The election for members of the assembly was the first in the Philippines under the Americans. The eagerness of Filipinos to participate in it

could be gleaned from the turnout of voters. Out of 104,966 electors, 100,493 went to the polls to cast their ballots.

Spanish was the common language in the chamber. The trend of using English as a political language, however, started with it.

The delegates to the assembly conducted the legislative proceedings with decorum and dignity in their speeches and actions. They addressed one another in the third person during discussions, interpellations, and debates. They confined themselves to questions under consideration.

The assembly had 90 days of session per year. Each delegate received P20 for every session. If one was not present in a session, there was no reason for him to be remunerated for that session. This system was adopted by Malaysia.

TORIBIO JOSON  
(1895-1963)  
Pioneer Psychiatrist

**A** distinguished doctor, Toribio Joson was born in Gapan, Nueva Ecija on April 27, 1895. He obtained his bachelor of arts degree in 1915 and his doctor of medicine degree in 1920 from the University of the Philippines.

He first served as resident physician of the Bayombong Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. He later became chief of the hospital and, at the same time, district health officer of Nueva Ecija from 1920 to 1923.

As a government fellow, Joson enrolled at the Harvard Medical School, where he received his certificate in psychiatry in 1927 and certificate in neurology in 1928. Under a special license, he was also allowed by the Medical Board of Massachusetts to practice medicine at the Boston City Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital.

Upon his return to Manila, Dr. Joson worked as an assistant alienist at the then newly established National Psychopatic Hospital (now National Mental Hospital). He spent his time administering to the needs of hundreds of mentally ill patients.

During the Japanese occupation, he made arrangements with the UP College of Pharmacy to provide medical supplies to the hospital's poor

patients.

After 34 year of public service, Joson retired in 1954 as chief senior psychiatrist of the National Mental Hospital due to poor health.

His selfless and dedicated service to his fellowmen, specially the mentally ill, didn't go unnoticed. During the golden jubilee celebration of the Manila Medical Society, he was presented with a diploma of merit. The award also cited his outstanding contributions to psychiatry in the Philippines.

Joson was a member of the Philippine Society of Psychiatry, Manila Medical Society, P.I. Medical Association, Colegio Medical Farmaceutical de Filipinas, and the Philippine Society of Hygiene and Mental Health, and was an associate member of the NRCP.

He was married to Rosario Baltazar and had three children.

Dr. Joson died on July 4, 1963 at the age of 68.

JOSE JOYA  
(1931-1995)  
Abstract Art Exponent

Jose Joya Jr., probably the best-known exponent of abstract painting in the Philippines, was born in Manila on June 3, 1931. He was the only son of Jose Joya Sr. and Asuncion Tanig.

His father, who dropped the "de" from the family name, worked as a deputy customs collector at the Manila International Airport. His mother, who hailed from San Miguel in Bulacan, had little formal education but installed in her children a love for life's finer things, like music and art.

Jose Jr. or "Peping," as he was fondly called, had three sisters - Josefina, Josefa, and Jesusa.

Joya started sketching when he was 11. His ambition was to become an architect. However, inspired by artists like Fernando Amorsolo and Vicente Manansala, he decided to become a painter.

He enrolled at the School of Fine Arts (now College of Fine Arts) of the University of the Philippines in 1950, and finished as its first magna cum laude graduate in 1953. The following year, he was awarded a scholarship grant by the Instituto Hispanica de Madrid. He had his masteral studies in fine arts on a Fulbright, Smith-Mundt scholarship at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan from 1956 to 1957. Later, he took up design studies at the University of Santo Tomas. He also won a grant from the Rockefeller

III Fund and the Ford Foundation which enabled him to paint at the Pratt Graphic Arts Center in New York from 1968 to 1969.

Joya gained national recognition even while he was still a student when he won the first prize in the second Shell Art Competition in 1952. Two years later, he had his first solo exhibit at the Philippine Art Gallery. There followed annual exhibits of his works until 1959. Later, he held one-man shows in prestigious art galleries in Hong Kong, Madrid, Brussels, Geneva, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing, New York, San Francisco, Frankfurt, and in other major cities of the world where they received popular acclaim.

Unlike in Western countries, abstract art, including that of Joya, did not receive much enthusiasm in the Philippines. To help promote its appreciation among Filipinos, Joya began exhibiting his own works in many parts of the country. In 1972, he held one-man shows at Silliman University in Dumaguete City and at the USIS library in Cebu City. He followed these up with similar shows in Iloilo, Bulacan, Marawi, Bacolod, Baguio, Tacloban, Cavite, etc. Some of his works are permanently displayed at the National Museum.

In 1957, Joya won the first prize for his painting, "Cathedral," in the competition sponsored by the Art Association of the Philippines. In the AAP contest the following year, he won the second prize for "Space Transfiguration."

His other prizewinning works were "City Entering the Edge of Sundown," "House of Life," "Yellow Harvest," "Church Silver," and another work also entitled "Cathedral."

Joya's first works were largely representational in character. He gravitated toward abstract expressionism in the late 1950's. His paintings were a virtual visual feast. Most of his paintings were done in oil on canvas. However, he also did paintings on ceramics, and made sketches in pencil.

Joya was AAP president from 1962 to 1965. He served as dean of the College of Fine Arts of the University of Santo Tomas from 1970 to 1978. In 1961 and 1972, he led two delegations of Filipino artists to China. In 1985, he held the Fernando Amorsolo professorial chair.

Joya served as chairman of the authentication committee of the National Museum, for which he received only a token fee. From 1976 onwards, he presided over the Joya Awards, a painting competition held annually for young painters. Up to his death in 1995, he was the head of the national committee on visual arts of the National Commission for Culture and the

## Arts.

Attesting to his international fame is his inclusion in such prestigious publications as *Who's Who in the World of Art*, *History of International Art*, *International Academia Italia*, *Men of Achievement*, and *Outstanding Men and Women of Asia*.

Joya was the recipient of various honors and awards. In 1961, he was one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men awardee for painting. During the same year, the government presented him the Republic Cultural Heritage Award. In 1971, he was the city of Manila's choice as "Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan." The French government bestowed on him the Order of Chevalier des Artes et Lettres in 1987. In 1990, he received the ASEAN Cultural Award. In 1991, he was awarded the "Gawad CCP para sa Sining."

Joya died on May 11, 1995 at the age of 63, of complications arising from a prostate gland operation.

## AGUEDA KAHABAGAN

### Lone Woman General of the Revolution

**I**t was a custom derived from the Spaniards. As a sign of respect, the wife of a public official was given the feminine form of her husband's title. Thus, a governor's wife was called *Gobernadora*; a barrio captain's wife, *Capitana*; a councilman's wife, *Oidora*, and so forth. However, Agueda Kahabagan was called *Generala* not because her husband was a general but because she herself was during the Philippine Revolution.

Kahabagan was born and grew up in the town of San Pablo in Laguna. There is no other record of her beginnings, including her parentage and her education.

Kahabagan was already a member of the Katipunan even before its discovery by the Spaniards in August 1896. At the outbreak of the revolution, she led men into battle and was often ahead of the main body of revolutionists attacking Spanish positions.

Old people in San Pablo remember that apart from figuring prominently in battles, she also organized armies. Her man-like fighting prowess became legendary. She was seen jumping over wide trenches and high fences, outdoing even the men.

After defeating a large force of Spaniards in the passes of San Pablo in

1897, she attracted the attention of General Emilio Aguinaldo, who gave her the title of "Generala."

Kahabagan was not only a brave warrior but also a poet. However, none of her poems has survived to this day.

URBANO A. LACUNA  
(1862-1911)  
Revolutionary General

Urbano Lacuna was born in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija on May 25, 1862. He was the third of the five sons of Isidro Lacuna and Eduviges Abesamis, both wealthy proprietors in the town.

He attended a primary school in Gapan which was directed by his uncle, Simeon Linsangan. He then studied at the Escuela Normal in Manila. A year before his graduation as a *maestro superior*, however, he dropped out of school to marry Isabel Libornio. His wife was the sister of a famous musician-composer from Santa Ana, Jose Sabas Libornio.

In 1884, Lacuna worked as a forest ranger in Romblon. Returning to Nueva Ecija, he got employed as a clerk at the provincial governors' office. In 1887, he accepted a position as *procurador y defensor de los pobres* in Tayabas, Tayabas (now Quezon Province). The town mayor then was Felipe Buencamino, Sr. Lacuna served in his Tayabas post for eight years.

In 1895, he was named auxiliary justice of the peace in Taytay, Morong (now Rizal Province). He must have been holding that post in 1896 when the Philippine Revolution broke out. At any rate, in 1898, he was enlisted as captain of the militia organized by Governor-General Basilio Augustin. When Manila was captured by the Americans, he joined the Filipino revolutionists as captain with the duties of *juez instructor*. He took command

of the Filipino forces in the Santa Ana district on February 4, 1899.

As a revolutionary leader, Lacuna participated in frontal combats against the American forces in Baliwag and, later, San Rafael, Bulacan. He was promoted to the rank of general for successfully repulsing the enemy attack in the battle of Aliaga in Nueva Ecija. When the revolutionary forces were broken up, he resorted to guerrilla warfare in Nueva Ecija.

On June 3, 1900, General Lacuna, with about 200 men, was attacked by the Americans, who inflicted a heavy loss on his side. However, he did not give up. He formed a guerrilla force of 700 men under his command, dividing it into three units. On July 4 of the same year, he conducted simultaneous assaults on American positions in Peñaranda, Gapan, and Manikling. Then on August 1, his guerrilla force overwhelmed an American scouting party headed by Lieutenant F.W. Alstataetter on the road between San Miguel and San Isidro. His kindness and humanity in dealing with captured Americans earned for Lacuna the respect and admiration of the enemy.

Through the mediation of his former comrade in the field, Joaquin Alejandrino, General Lacuna and his entire force of 31 officers and 200 men, along with their 240 rifles, six revolvers, and 4,000 rounds of ammunition, surrendered and took their oath of allegiance to the United States before General Funston on May 19, 1901. With their surrender, the armed guerrilla resistance in Nueva Ecija came to a close.

As a private citizen, Lacuna engaged in agriculture and, later, in the log-hauling business in Peñaranda. These economic pursuits were short-lived. Lacuna suffered from kidney ailment which he had contracted during his revolutionary days in the hills and forests of Nueva Ecija. He never recovered from it. He died on April 10, 1911 and was buried in Gapan.

Lacuna had seven children by his wife, Isabel, namely: Emilia, Paz, Fructuoso, Felisa, Urbano, Ricardo, and Jose.

CESAR LEGASPI  
(1917-1994)  
National Artist for Painting

One of the founding fathers of the neorealist group of artists which emerged after World War II, Cesar T. Legaspi was born in Tondo, Manila on April 2, 1917. His father, Manuel Legaspi, was a book-keeper, and his mother, Rosario Torrente, was a *colegiala* from Sta. Isabel. He was only about one-year-old when he contracted pneumonia after being taken to a carnival parade. Frail and sickly, he needed hospitalization up to about 1922. And improbable as it would seem, he was color-blind. Yet painting would be his profession.

He studied at the Washington Elementary School on Maria Clara Street in Sampaloc, finishing there in 1929, and then at Arellano High School. He graduated from the School of Fine Arts of the University of the Philippines in 1936.

As a fine arts student, he won medals in illustration and perspective drawing. He took up life coloring under Prof. Pablo Amorsolo.

He also worked as staff artist of the advertising department of Elizalde and Company, Inc.

During the Japanese occupation, he won honorable mention at the Kalibapi art competitions. In 1942, he married Vitaliana G. Kalugdan of Cavite City. In 1944, he was picked up by the Kempetai, the Japanese secret

police, on suspicion that he was supporting or was active in the underground movement in Manila. He was imprisoned in Fort Santiago, spending more than a week in a crowded, filthy, and airless dungeon.

During the first eight months of the liberation period Legaspi did pencil portraits of Navy men in Cavite. Sometime in October 1945, however, his old lung ailment landed him in a hospital. It took months for him to recover.

In 1946, he joined an art group led by Prof. Victorio Edades. It was called "Thirteen Moderns" simply because there were 13 artists who attended its first meeting, which also proved to be its last. Before they could do anything as a group, they split up, with most of them going back to the traditional style of painting. Only four decided to master the modern idiom - Vicente Manansala, H.R. Ocampo, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, and Cesar Legaspi - and were subsequently dubbed neorealists. They were later joined by Tabuena, Oteyza, and Ramon Estella.

In 1948, he signed up with the Art Association of the Philippines. During its first annual art exhibition that year, his painting, "Sick Child," won fourth prize. In its second annual art exhibition in 1949, he won first prize for "Gadgets" and fourth prize for "Planters." In the Manila Club exhibition that same year, his "Stairway" won first prize and "Treeplanting," second honorable mention. In 1950, his "Symphony" won first honorable mention during the Manila Grand Opera House exhibition. During the fourth AAP annual art exhibition, held at the Manila Trading and Supply Center in 1951, his "Ritual" won third prize. However, it was his "Idols in the 3<sup>rd</sup> eye," featuring images of Aztec sculpture, rock formation, and wood grains, that became famous.

In 1953, with the help of Purita K. Ledesma, an art patron, Legaspi was awarded a scholarship by the Spanish government for a year's study in Madrid. After his stint in Madrid, he proceeded to Paris, where he took a summer art course at the Academie Ranson under English-Speaking Professor Goetz. In late August of 1954, he left Paris for Geneva, Zurich, Venice, Florence, Sienna, Assisi, and Rome. He was in Rome when he was informed of his appointment as Philippine representative to the First Plastic Arts Conference sponsored by UNESCO.

In 1956, Legaspi was elected vice-president of the Art Directors Club of the Philippines. He became its president the following year. In 1964, he was appointed as its vice-president for creative planning and exhibition. In 1968, he resigned his position to join Hernando Ocampo and Arturo Luz in a three-man painting exhibition.

In 1969, Amon Trading sponsored a round-the-world trip for him. Before that trip, he was asked by the Cultural Center of the Philippines to paint a wall at its Small Theater. His world tour took him to Hongkong, Rome, Madrid, Geneva, Paris, Weisbaden, Amsterdam, London, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Tokyo.

In 1972, Legaspi received the "Araw ng Maynila" award for painting.

Legaspi engaged in nude painting sessions, specially of women, with a group of artist called the Saturday Group. From this group emerged another, the Thursday Group, headed by Alfredo Roces, in 1973. Its members engaged mostly in landscape painting.

Legaspi's early works were imitations of Carlos "Botong" Francisco, and for a while he was influenced by Ocampo and Manansala. His postwar paintings bear strong social undertones in response to the war-ravaged environment. In monochrome brown and cubist restatement of the figure, his paintings depict beggars, street musicians, poor city folks, workers in the street, and construction and factory sites. In his recent paintings, his figures have become larger and more central. He balanced the expressionistic side of his art with the fully realized watercolor landscapes.

Legaspi was named National Artist for painting in 1990. Before that he received the "Critic's Choice Award" as one of the country's five outstanding living artists (1981), the "Professional Award for Painting" from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (1978), the "Gawad CCP Award for the Visual Arts" (1990), and the "Tanglaw ng Lahi Award" from the Ateneo de Manila University (1990).

He died on April 7, 1994. He was 77. He is survived by his wife Betty, son Dennis, and daughters Rebecca, Alicia, Diana, and the singer-actress Celeste.

JOSE C. LOCSIN  
(1891-1977)  
Physician and Provincial Governor

**J**ose Locsin y Corteza was born on August 27, 1891 in Silay, Negros Occidental. He was the son of Domingo Locsin and Enriqueta Corteza, who belonged to one of the richest families in the province, being a pioneer in its sugar industry.

Locsin obtained his bachelor of arts degree at the Liceo de Manila. He then took up medical studies at the University of Santo Tomas, specializing in clinical medicine and surgery. During the university's tricentennial celebration, he received an award for his work on colibacillosis. He graduated with honors in 1912 and later practiced his profession in his hometown.

In Silay, Dr. Locsin organized a movement for the social protection of mothers and their children. This movement became popular and spread to the entire province.

In the congressional election of 1928, he won as representative of the first district of Negros Occidental. He served in the national legislature as chairman of the committee on instruction and the committee on nationalization, as well as member of the committees on health, pensions, and tax reforms. One of his legislative achievements was a law providing additional funds for the hiring of more teachers for schools in the barrios.

During his incumbency as provincial governor, Locsin caused the construction of a concrete road linking Negros Occidental with Negros Oriental. One or the other province used to be accessible to Negrenses and other travelers only by sea or on a hazardous trek over mountain trails. He was also instrumental in the construction of the town hall of Mambucal, the provincial high school, various schoolhouses, marketplaces, concrete bridges, and other permanent improvements.

As a medical practitioner, he was twice elected president of the Philippine Medical Association.

Locsin was married to Salvacion Montelibano. He was the acknowledged patriarch of the Locsin and Corteza clans.

He died on May 1, 1977.

LEANDRO LOCSIN  
(1928-1994)  
National Artist for Architecture

**L**eandro Locsin was born on August 15, 1928 in Silay City, Negros Occidental. Locsin took various college courses before earning his degree in architecture. At the University of Santo Tomas, he started as a pre-law student, almost completed the requirement for a bachelor's degree in music, and then realized that he really wanted to be an architect. Locsin's architectural genius was already evident during his student days in UST.

Through Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Locsin took his two-year apprenticeship requirement as an architect at Ayala and Company, which had already started developing the Makati commercial center. It was at this time that he met Frederic Osorio, who commissioned him to design a round chapel for the family residence. However, the Osorios left for the United States, and the project was shelved. It was then that the Catholic chaplain of the University of the Philippines, Fr. John Delaney, asked Locsin to design a 1,000-seat chapel with open-sides on the UP campus in Diliman.

Once the UP chapel-in-the-round was built, Locsin became a byword in Philippine architecture. The Ayala and Company commissioned him to design three buildings on Ayala Avenue. Other commissions from other clients followed.

In 1959, Locsin was awarded a grant by the US State Department for an architectural tour on the US mainland and to meet American architects. The tour was highlighted by his meeting with Eero Saarinen, whose style he admired.

Aside from Saarinen's, Locsin was also impressed by the style of Paul Rudolph, particularly his creative use of textured and finished concrete surfaces in various ways.

Returning to the Philippines, Locsin resolved: "Forget steel and glass, concrete is our material."

With concrete as the main construction element, Locsin enriched his architectural designs based on Philippine conditions. Thus was born in 1960 a Locsinian architecture which displayed "certain similar characteristics: a lightness of form; an airiness and grace lent by the slender, tapering columns, the thin sunscreens, the almost weightless balconic overhangs." In 1960, after only five years of practice, he received international recognition through the Pan-Pacific architectural citation given to him by the Hawaii chapter of the American Institute Architects for consistent excellence in design.

He was to receive other awards later, to wit: Rizal Centennial award for architecture (1962); gold medal award from UST (1968); Republic Cultural Heritage Award (1970); Araw ng Maynila cultural award; gold medal award from the Philippine Institute of Architects, and "Architect of the Year" award from PRC.

In 1990, President Corazon C. Aquino proclaimed him National Artist for architecture.

The Philippine Pavillion in the Expo '70 held in Japan, the Philippine International Convention Center, the Population Center, the Nutrition Center, the Asean Center for Training and Research for Social Welfare and Development, the Makati Stock Exchange, and the Philippine Plaza Hotel are among the structures that bear the distinctive mark of Locsin's architecture.

He died on November 15, 1994, at age 66. He was survived by his wife, former Cecile Yulo, and sons Leandro Jr. and Luis.

VICENTE A. LOCSIN  
(1874- )  
1907 Assembly Member

Vicente Locsin, a physician, was one of the members of the First Philippine Assembly, which was convened in 1907.

Locsin belonged to one of the prominent landowning clans of Central Visayas. He was born in Januay, Iloilo on February 16, 1874. He studied in Molo, at a school run by a relative, Manuel Locsin y Sanquising, where he obtained his primary education. He then transferred to Manila, enrolling at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran and, later, at the University of Santo Tomas, where he earned the degree of doctor of medicine in 1903.

After completing his studies, Locsin went to Negros Occidental. He became president of the municipal sanitation boards of the towns of Silay and Talisay in December 1903. In March 1904, he became president of the sanitation board of the town of Luzurriaga. The following month, he became acting president of the sanitation board of the whole province of Negros Occidental.

During his tenure as sanitation board head of several towns and, later, of the whole province, he sought to improve the health conditions of the people, especially in the reduction in the incidence and cure of deadly but easily preventable diseases such as measles, leprosy, and malaria. He advocated the adoption of hygienic practices to prevent the spread of

contagious diseases.

In 1907, Dr. Locsin resigned his provincial sanitation position to run in the elections for the First Philippine Assembly as delegate of the second district of Negros Oriental.

MIGUEL LOGARTA  
(1863-1904)  
First Cebuano Lawyer and Judge

**B**orn of humble parents in Mandaue, Cebu on May 8, 1863, Don Miguel Logarta y Ceniza was Cebu's first lawyer and judge. He was the Secretary of Justice of the provincial government during the Philippine Revolution and the founder of the school that trained Sergio Osmeña Sr., during his formative years.

Miguel Logarta came from a family of eleven children. He took his first studies in Cebu City and entered the Colegio y Seminario de San Carlos where he obtained excellent ratings. The era in which he was born was an auspicious one because on May 20, 1865 or two years after his birth, Queen Isabella II of Spain issued a decree granting educational reforms for Spain and its overseas colonies. Among these reforms was the introduction of a system of secondary education or *segunda enseñanza* with a well-planned program for a five-year course in humanistic studies leading to the degree of *bachiller en artes*.

Upon recommendation of Fr. Lorenzo Mayor, the parish priest of Mandaue, Logarta was assisted by Fr. Blas de Cabada who helped him reach Manila and study at the University of Santo Tomas. Logarta earned his tuition by serving as a working student at the University. He worked in the library where he cleaned bookshelves and served as a librarian's assistant. His work in the library also helped him to read a lot, broadening his intellectual horizons. He was an excellent student with an insatiable thirst

for knowledge. According to his classmate, Ignacio Villamor who later became a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Logarta was imbued with an "extraordinary fondness for study." He took notes seriously and listened attentively to the lectures of his professors because he could not afford to buy all of his textbooks and other reading materials.

Logarta finished his studies at the University of Santo Tomas where he obtained the degrees of Theology and Law which were degrees in canon law and jurisprudence, respectively. He obtained the degree in law with the honor of *sobresaliente*.

Upon completing his education, he contemplated a career as a lawyer. It was not long, however, when he was recommended to become the Fiscal of Tarlac, and later of Samar.

Returning to Cebu, he established his own law office and later he founded a school which became the Colegio Logarta. Among his students were Sergio Osmeña who rose to become Speaker of the First Philippine Assembly, Senator, Vice President and President of the Philippine Commonwealth. Osmeña had just finished two years of primary studies at a private class under Martin Medalla. Under Logarta's tutelage, Osmeña, underwent more advanced studies. He was taught Spanish grammar, History, Arithmetic during his first year and during his second year, Latin, Good Manners and Right Conduct and religion. Logarta noted that the young Osmeña was the brightest student he ever had. Often he conversed with him after classes and acquainted him with the usefulness and handiness of a good education. The young man was fully inspired by his teacher's intellect, wisdom and rectitude that he made him his model in public and private life. Osmeña consistently excelled in his studies even long after graduating from Logarta's school. Both teacher and student became good friends. In his later years, Osmeña would freely admit that he owed his intellectual and spiritual indebtedness to his teacher.

Logarta served two terms as Prosecutor and Fiscal, Secretary of the Audiencia, Lieutenant Fiscal and Magistrate. At one time, he spoke before the forum of tribunals for which his eloquent speech and knowledge received high admiration. The record of his presentation was a dissertation of legal jurisprudence and philosophy.

When Spanish rule had ended, Logarta was asked to represent Cebu in the Assembly of Rios, in Iloilo. During the establishment of the Philippine Republic, Logarta was appointed Secretary of Justice of the revolutionary provincial government. At the onset of American rule, he became part of a

committee which was instrumental in the restoration of peace in the province.

In 1901, at the insistence of his province mates and even against his will, Logarta was imposed to serve at the Provincial Fiscal's office. He was indisposed to accept the position but his friends formed a Civil Commission to install him as the Provincial Fiscal and later as Judge of the Court of First Instance of Cebu. The reason for their insistence was there was no qualified legal luminary who could serve in these positions.

During that time, judges and fiscals who were trained in law school were practically non-existent. There were Justices of the Peace whose qualification was having degrees such as Bachiller en Artes or even Segunda Enseñanza equivalent to today's secondary school. There were very few graduates of law at that time to serve as judges and fiscals. They were appointed solely on the ability to read and write in Spanish. Logarta was actually the first professional judge of Cebu.

While serving as Fiscal and Judge, Logarta endeared himself to the people for his zeal in upholding justice. He was fired up with a genuine concern to dispense justice for the people especially the poor. He was defender of the right, of the peace and order and of the law." No one, including his adversaries, could challenge his moral stature as the pillar of order and justice in the province.

Logarta however did not live long enough to dispense his much-needed duties. He died on February 15, 1904 at the young age of 40. Don Miguel Logarta left a void that was hard to fill. His loss was felt in the entire province of Cebu. He was a model of culture and civilization, and a champion of moral integrity.

Logarta had been married to Filomena Alburo by whom he had six children. One of his sons, Vicente Logarta Sr., now deceased, was a member of the first Congress of the Philippines. Another son, Antonio Logarta became a public defender.

Don Miguel's descendants are trying to live up to his legacy. Among them are his grandchildren, Mariano Logarta who become the Minority Floor Leader of the Interim Batasang Pambasang during the early 1980s, and Judge Julio Logarta, now retired. His great grand children are philanthropists Ernesto and Alice Logarta; Alfonso Albaño who has served as councilor of Mandaue, Cebu and Councilor Julio Logarta, Jr. of Manila. Lawyer Artemio Sanchez is a great grand nephew of Don Miguel Logarta. Another descendant is former Governor and Assemblyman Vicente Cerilles and his son, Congressman Antonio Cerilles.

A close relative of Don Miguel was Eugenio N. Logarta who settled in Manila with his wife Petra de los Reyes. Together they established a small community of Logartas in Sta. Cruz district. Among his twelve children was Atilano who sired four boys, among them Ernesto, also a lawyer, now recognized as a businessman - philanthropist.

In 1983, Don Miguel's alma mater, the University of Santo Tomas, in recognition of his superior intellect and superior performance as a student, enshrined him among the tenth batch of Great Thomasians and proclaimed him as "worthy of emulation and eminence in history and the living past."

As a token of the high regard for Don Miguel as a model citizen and selfless public servant, the Mandaue City Council passed Ordinance No. 96/005 renaming a wide boulevard in Mandaue City as Don Miguel Logarta Boulevard on April 26, 1996.

## MARIANO LOPEZ

### Delegate to the Malolos Congress

**M**ariano Lopez belonged to a wealthy family in Balayan, Batangas, where he was born. His father was Natalio Lopez and his mother was Maria Castelo. Sixto Lopez was his brother.

Sixto Lopez was a good friend of Jose Rizal. Like Rizal, he was a fierce nationalist and a propagandist. He smuggled Rizal's books to the country and sold them for two pesos each to his countrymen. Rizal even got financial help from him. And like General Artemio Ricarte, Sixto Lopez never swore allegiance to the flag of the United States. During the Second World War, however, he sheltered American pilots in his hacienda. These pilots were downed and hunted by Japanese forces. In an ironic twist of fate, General Ricarte was siding with the Japanese at that time.

The role of Sixto Lopez in Philippine history is documented well enough, but unfortunately, that of his brother Mariano remains largely in the dark. A little light is shed in it, though, by that momentous event in the life of the 1898 Philippine Republic, the convening of the Malolos Congress.

When Spanish rule was crushed in the Philippines, General Emilio Aguinaldo quickly formed a provisional government not only to take control of the chaotic situation but also to preempt the sinister designs of the American interlopers who, he realized, were poised to seize the whole

country as a colony. As a first step towards establishing a truly republican and democratic state, the Congress would show the world that the Filipinos had it in themselves to govern their own people and stand alone as an independent and sovereign nation.

The Lopez brothers became members of it, with Mariano being elected to represent Batangas province along with Gregorio Aguilera, Eduardo Gutierrez and Ambrosio Flores.

In 1901, Mariano Lopez was ranking member of the Federal Party, and was its candidate for the post of Batangas provincial governor. As opposed to the more popular Nacionalista Party, which battled for immediate independence, the Federal Party advocated the annexation of the archipelago to the United States.

SIXTO LOPEZ  
(1863- )  
Revolutionary Propagandist

**A** Filipino patriot and propagandist during the revolution against Spain and the war against America, Sixto Lopez was born in Balayan, Batangas on April 6, 1863. His parents were Natalio Lopez and Maria Castelo, both natives of Balayan.

Lopez received his primary education from the public school in his hometown in 1875. His parents then sent him to Manila, to study at the Ateneo Municipal, where he completed his elementary course. He also studied under a private teacher, Dr. Cipriano Gonzales, who had a school in Manila, in 1880. Later, he enrolled at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, but afterwards transferred to the University of Santo Tomas, where he obtained his secondary education in 1884. He returned to his hometown to help his parents manage their vast farms.

While in Balayan, he found the time to read more thoughtfully the *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* of Dr. Jose Rizal. He also learned much of Dr. Rizal's plan to establish a Filipino colony in Borneo as a corollary movement to liberate the Filipinos from Spanish colonial rule.

Lopez joined a Masonic lodge. He received several letters from Rizal himself. Becoming suspicious of his activities, the local Spanish authorities ordered a search of his home. The search yielded the two novels of Rizal and

several of his letters, which the raiders seized as incriminating evidence of Lopez's participation in a plot to overthrow the Spanish colonial regime. Lopez eluded arrest by taking refuge in the house of Justo Guido, then a bookkeeper of "La Insular" in Manila. When Rizal was deported to Dapitan on July 7, 1892, he took the S.S. *Esmeralda*, which sailed for Hongkong.

Lopez stayed for eight months in Hongkong. In March 1893, he left for the United States to see the World's Fair in Chicago. He stayed in the US for six months, then sailed for Paris and, from there, to London, England.

He was in England when he learned of the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896 and began pursuing his role as a propagandist of the Filipino cause in Europe. He issued press statements, released to various newspapers in London, to tell the world of the truth about the oppressive sociopolitical conditions in the Philippines under Spanish rule. This role earned for him the admiration of the English and other foreigners.

When General Emilio Aguinaldo decreed the establishment in Hongkong of the Revolutionary Committee, composed of a central directorate, members, and correspondents, Lopez was designated as correspondent for England together with Antonio Regidor. He also served as Felipe Agoncillo's secretary during their trip to the United States on September 2, 1898 so that Agoncillo could present his credentials as Philippine ambassador to America.

When Agoncillo did not get an audience with the US President, Lopez commented: "I believe that if America had granted our very reasonable request that the troops being sent to Manila were not intended as a menace to our government or our people — and it was as much America's duty as ours to endeavor to maintain peace — the conflict could not have occurred." The conflict he referred to was the Philippine-American War, which was a severe blow to the newly installed Philippine independence.

To see for himself the conditions of his fellow Filipinos at the time, he returned to Manila in 1903. Because of his refusal to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, however, the American colonial administration deported him barely two months after he arrived. Like General Artemio Ricarte, he never took that oath of allegiance.

In 1915, Lopez was permitted to return to the Philippines, but as an alien. He was already in his early fifties then. He lived in Saigon as a self-exile. It is said that Lopez came home for good after the Philippines had gained its independence and become a republic in 1946.

VICTORIANO LUCIANO  
(1863-1896)  
One of the 13 Martyrs of Cavite

**A** pharmacist by profession, Victoriano Luciano was a man of varied talents and interests. He was born on March 23, 1863 in Cavite, Cavite. He was the third of the 13 children of Joaquin Luciano and the former Faustina Simona.

His father was a landowner, a leasee at the market place of Cavite, a building contractor, a private tutor who gave lessons to children at his home, and a justice of the peace of Cavite for two years. His mother belonged to a well-to-do family that manufactured tobacco and cigarettes at their home, where she employed workers.

Luciano learned the alphabet from his father. Then he studied at the town school. At the age of seven, he could already play the piano and the violin. At 13, he was sent to Manila, to enrol at the San Juan de Letran, where he finished his *segunda enseñanza*.

At that age, he already looked like a young man, strong and husky and tall, at five-and-a-half-feet and still growing. No one dared to pick a fight with him.

By the time he was an adult, he had grown huge, standing about seven feet tall and weighing some 290 pounds. His physical characteristics could

be attributed to his father.

In 1884, while he was still studying, Luciano married his neighbor, Esperanza San Agustin, the niece of one of the "Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite," Antonio San Agustin. Despite his marriage, he continued his higher studies. He graduated from the University of Santo Tomas in March of 1889 with a licentiate in pharmacy.

Once he had opened his own drugstore in his home town, he began performing experimental work, preparing his own extracts and tonics. He succeeded in distilling volatile oils from native flowers, thus enabling him to make his own perfumes and lotions. He also improved the taste of the cigarettes manufactured in their home by producing several flavors.

For his experimental work and pioneering activities as a pharmacist, Luciano was made a corresponding member in August 1892 of the Colegio de Farmaceuticas de Manila. In November of that year, his pharmaceutical preparations were exhibited in the Exposicion Regional de Cavite, during which he was awarded a silver medal. Two years later, in November 1894, the Academie Universelle de Sciencies et des Artes Industrielles conferred on him a diploma of honor for his pharmaceutical preparations and innovations.

Luciano also discovered a formula for making pills to treat venereal diseases.

Luciano was one of the organizers of La Compañia del Trueno, a group of merry-makers who went out at night to serenade women and played music during fiestas, at the *misas de aguinaldo*, during Christmastime, and in other holidays. He usually played the bass, or violencello. He composed music and wrote poetry, too.

His "Marcha Regional de Cavite" was composed for the provincial fair of 1892. He also composed a patriotic piece, "El Triunfo de Calatagan," a musical interpretation of social conditions in Cavite, "El Progreso," and others. His "La Polka, Credo" was a piece for mass in three voices.

He showed his theatrical bent by staging and acting in plays, one of which, "La Flor de Un Dia," he also directed. He also wrote lyrics, which were published under his pen names "Luvicsi" and "Luc Vic Simona" in *La Oceania Española* and *La Solidaridad*.

Luciano organized a sporting club where members engaged in fencing,

shooting, boxing, wrestling, and other recreational or athletic activities. He himself was fond of weight lifting, using iron bars.

Luciano was both a Mason and a member of the Katipunan. He served as secretary of the local Masonic lodge headed by Dr. Hugo Perez. He was very outspoken about his anti-Spanish and anti-friar sentiments.

According to the testimony of Alfonso de Ocampo, Luciano was one of the *cabecillas* of the planned Katipunan uprising, and that he and his fellow leaders, which included Dr. Perez, Osorio, Maximo Gregorio, Antonio San Agustin, Severino Lapidario, met at his drugstore.

Luciano was arrested by the authorities at his house at 4 o'clock in the morning of September 4, 1896. He was thrown into a cell in Fort San Felipe together with 12 other men accused of being Katipunan members. At midday of September 12, all 13 of them were marched off to the plaza in front of the fort and shot by firing squad. They were to be known as the "Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite."

Luciano, whose weakness, ironically, was women, never had any children. Sometime after his death, his widow took his younger brother, Joaquin Luciano, Jr., who was also a pharmacist, as her second husband.

MARCELA MARCELO-LUGO  
(1869-1897)  
Woman General of the Revolution

**M**arcela Marcelo, also known as "Selang Bagsik" (Ferocious Sela) and "Henerala Sela" (General Sela), hailed from Malibay, formerly a part of Palanyag, but now of Pasay. She was born in 1869. She married Quirino Lugo of Aguho, Pateros, and she bore him a son.

Jorge Sandejas Cristobal, in his article "Pasay City's Unsung Heroine," which appeared in the *Philippines Free Press*, dated May 13, 1961, wrote that Marcelo was a *kapitana* (captain), and that she was treacherously killed in the Battle of Zapote Bridge. However, this is erroneous, since that battle took place on February 17, 1897, or a month before the Battle of Pasong Santol (Dasmariñas), which occurred on March 21, 1897.

Cristobal also wrote that Marcelo was married and was a member of an upper-class family with a betel nut farm (Pasay was famous for its betel nuts).

She was reported to be a very brave fighter, one who would not flinch in the face of the Spanish onslaught. Her husband was said to have been captured by the Civil Guards. She did not utter a word nor take any action while her husband was being led away. It was also believed that she entrusted her son to the care of her sister, then she headed a group of Filipino rebels that raided enemy trenches. Because of her bravery, she was feared by

the enemy.

It was her picture, a woman with flowing hair, that was drawn in the certificates of members of the "Veteranos de la Revolucion" kept in a small notebook by Roman Abad (code name "Magtanggol"), a katipunero from Imus. In it was found written: "March 21, 1897, in Pasong Santol the woman, Marcela Marcelo was killed."

In Malibay, Pasay City, an elementary school was named after her. Also in the plaza of Malibay is a bust of Marcelo fronting the C. Jose, the principal road in that place. The bust was unveiled on July 1, 1962. It was dedicated by the Kapisanang Diwa ng Malibay, with these words:

Born here in  
Malibay on 1869  
led and fought  
during the time of  
the Revolution and was killed  
in Pasong Santol  
Imus, Cavite on 1896

Note that the date of her death was 1896, which should be 1897.

Research shows that there is an alley in Sta. Cruz, Manila, which was declared as early as October 13, 1916 to be known as "Taga Malibay" (from Malibay) in memory of a certain "Generala," which turned out to be Marcela Marcelo.

According to Carlos V. Ronquillo, private secretary of General Emilio Aguinaldo, in his book, *Some Minutes of the Revolution of 1896-97*, page 176:

"One of our platoons was led by a woman of great courage; a middle-aged married woman who had child, a woman from Pasay (if we were not mistaken), who was always in the heat of the battle, with no weapons but a bolo. She died a heroine when the Spanish trenches were taken in Pasong Santol.

"This action so frightened the Spaniards that they ran and was driven by the infantry and Tagalog volunteers who fought for us and whose casualties were nine wounded. Because of this the enemy was expected to retaliate."

On page 122 is mentioned the death of Marcelo in the Battle of the Batteries in Pasong Santol:

"No wounded on the first day of battle except for the 15 to 12 dead, including the woman-hero, the one from Pasay who led the platoon to rush the centre."

However, there is also one Martin F. Vinago, who wrote in 1928 that Marcelo was " Shot in the forehead by the withering fire of the enemy. She was standing, with her luxuriant hair flowing down in the line of defense while exchanging fire with the enemy and giving commands to her soldiers.

## CAYETANO LUKBAN

(1866- )

1907 Assembly Member

A man of strong convictions and a patriot, Cayetano Lukban y Rilles was one of the members of the First Philippine Assembly.

He was born in Labo, Camarines Norte on August 7, 1866, to Agustin Lukban and Andrea Rilles. He studied at the University of Santo Tomas, where he obtained his bachelor of laws degree in 1892.

Lukban began his legal career in his home province, as an ex-officio attorney for poor litigants with pending court cases. Being better-educated than most of his townmates, he was selected later as one of the 12- man council of the *principalia* of Labo, which had been constituted by the Maura Law of 1893. He received no salary, and although he served on it only briefly, he was able to accomplish some notable projects, like the improvement of the town's roads.

Lukban was then appointed *fiscal promotor*, or prosecuting fiscal, and *registrador de la propiedad* of La Union. However, he became embroiled in official intrigues after he incurred the ire of the province's civil governor and an Agustinian friar for supporting a candidate for municipal captain of a town whom the Spaniards opposed. Lukban, who was already a Freemason at the time, was accused of being a filibuster, as well as anti-Catholic and anti-Spaniard.

At the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, he fled to Spain to escape the reign of terror waged by the colonial authorities against people whom they perceived to be harboring liberal and pro-independence beliefs. Upon arriving there, he wrote to the King of Spain, revealing to him the real causes of the revolution and suggesting to him possible remedies if Spain wanted to continue its rule in the Philippines. His letter was taken up during a meeting of the Council of Ministers, which was presided by the Queen herself.

Lukban then left Spain. He lived in Hong Kong with other Filipinos who had formed the Philippine Central Committee, also known as the Hong Kong Junta, led by Galicano Apacible. The Junta, in which Lukban served as secretary, was the unofficial listening post abroad of the revolutionary government in the Philippines. It presented the Philippine position in foreign countries and fought for the recognition of Philippine independence, especially by the United States, which had already claimed title to the country by virtue of the Treaty of Paris.

During the Filipino-American War, the Junta tried to solicit aid for the Philippine government and served as a conduit for military supplies for the revolutionary forces.

In 1901, when American rule was firmly established in the country after the capture of Aguinaldo, Lukban returned to the Philippines, ending a five-year exile. He went to Cebu where he met Sergio Osmeña, who was then a young lawyer and newspaperman, and established the Lukban & Osmeña Law Office.

The Americans, however, continued to suspect him of conducting subversive activities. In 1904, he was arrested with his two brothers on charges of conspiracy in advocating Philippine independence. The lower courts found him guilty, but he was acquitted by the Supreme Court.

During the elections for the First Philippine Assembly on July 30, 1907, Lukban won as a delegate for the first district of Rizal. After serving his brief term, he was appointed provincial fiscal of Cagayan and Isabela in 1910.

Lukban was appointed auxiliary judge of the provinces of Cebu, Leyte, Samar, Bohol, and Negros Oriental in 1914; judge of the court of First Instance of Leyte in 1916, and judge of the Courts of First Instance of Bohol and Negros Oriental in 1916.

He left the judiciary in 1919 when he became director of the Bureau of Lands. In 1922, he returned to the judiciary when he was again appointed

judge of Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya. The following year, he was assigned to Bataan and Zambales and, the next year, to Tarlac, where he remained until 1931, when he was appointed judge of the Court of First Instance of Rizal.

In 1935, Lukban was returned to the legislative branch when he was elected representative under the Commonwealth government.

Lukban, whose career spanned 40 years, was one of the few Filipinos who served their countrymen during the Spanish, revolutionary, and American periods.

**VICTORIANO LUNA**  
**(1875-1942)**  
**Father of the AFP Medical Service**

**V**ictoriano Luna was born in Rosario, Batangas in November 1883 to wealthy parents Vicente Luna and Arcadia Quizon. Together with his father and elder brother Luis, Luna participated in the Filipinos' independence struggle under General Miguel Malvar in 1898. When his father died during the war against Spain, his brother Luis rose in the ranks of Malvar's staff.

Luna studied medicine at the University of the Philippines. For two years following his graduation on April 4, 1913, he served as a resident physician at the Philippine General Hospital. Afterwards, he joined the medical service of the Philippine Constabulary as a second lieutenant in 1915.

Luna spent 27 years of his professional life in different branches of the military service.

In 1934, he became the first chief of the Philippine Army's medical service, which he had worked hard to set up. He also became the first surgeon-general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In September 1939, the Commonwealth government appointed him as official delegate to the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy in Washington, D.C. After his stay in the United States, he

proceeded to Europe to observe the medical services of foreign armies.

During World War II, Luna took over the command of the Philippine Army General Hospital in Mariveles, Bataan. On March 26, 1942, while he was making his rounds of the hospital grounds, the Japanese conducted a bombing raid. A bomb dropped in the area killed Luna instantly.

In memory of the "father" of the AFP's medical service, the first Philippine Army General Hospital, which began operation in 1937, was renamed Victoriano Luna General Hospital.

Luna was married in  
had a daughter and three  
Campaign.

he former Pura Canilas of Cagayan. They  
two of which joined Luna in the Bataan

GENEROSO S. MACEDA  
(1903-1958)  
Anthropologist

**G**eneroso S. Maceda was born on July 17, 1903 in Pagsanjan, Laguna, the eldest of the seven children of Pantaleon Maceda and Luisa Salvador.

Maceda had his elementary education in Pagsanjan, finished high school at the Jose Rizal College in Manila, then pursued higher studies at the University of the Philippines, where he received his bachelor of philosophy degree in 1930 and master of arts degree in 1932. His masteral thesis was a study on the life and customs of an ethnic group, the Dumagats, in Famy, Laguna.

He first worked as a junior scientist at the National Museum sometime in 1933, later writing articles published in the *Philippine Journal of Science*. He stayed with the National Museum up to the outbreak of World War II.

Maceda underwent military training at the infantry school of the Philippine Army and was inducted into it as first lieutenant in December 1941. He saw action in Bataan during the war itself.

With the surrender of USAFFE forces, he went underground. He joined a guerilla unit known as the Eastern Central Luzon Guerillas. He was an officer in the military information service from November 15, 1942 to March

15, 1945. He did intelligence work in Manila and the suburbs. He also had connections with the Santa Ana Vigilantes in Manila. At the same time, he worked with Prof. H. Otley Beyer and Prof. Marcelo Tangco in the Watson Building on Aviles Street.

After the war, he was named member of the Reparations Commission to Tokyo, Japan, 1947-1948. Following his stint with the commission, he retired from government service.

Maceda then went into business. He operated the Guadalupe Logging Company, which had its office in Makati. He obtained a concession in Bataan, which he operated for a couple of years. Afterwards he transferred his logging operations to Zambales. Huk activities in that province made him move to Palawan and, later, to Occidental Mindoro, in 1954.

Maceda was married to the former Consolacion Masilang of Capan, Nueva Ecija in 1931. They had three children.

He succumbed to a heart attack on January 14, 1958.

After his death, his son Manuel took over his logging company.

MANUEL P. MANAHAN  
(1916-1994)  
Outstanding Senator

**T**he third of the six children of Juan Manahan of Bulacan and Clotilde Perez of Manila, Manuel P. Manahan was born on New Year's Day, 1916.

He was a product of the Ateneo de Manila, where he finished high school (1933) and obtained his bachelor of arts degree (1937).

He was a senator, journalist, businessman, and rural development advocate.

Early reference to him as a businessman described him as a young soft drinks manufacturer. In 1933, he founded the Philippine Standard Products Co. In 1937, he joined Heacock's as a business apprentice under Samuel F. Gaches, its president.

During World War II, he was suspected of being a civilian attached to the Philippine Army. He was imprisoned by the Japanese along with the likes of Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez, Colonel Jose Olivares, the first Filipino Annapolis Academy graduate, and Bienvenido de la Paz, a journalist of the Spanish newspaper *El Debate*. They shared cell No. 8, which soon became crowded as more detainees were later dumped into it. Thus, they slept like sardines on the wooden floor with hardly any room to turn on their sides.

Manahan once described the ordeal of Amang Rodriguez.

Rodriguez would be interrogated by the Japanese with his hands tied with wire. They would be swollen and blackish afterwards when Rodriguez returned to his cell. Manahan would gently massage his hands to restore his blood circulation.

Once Rodriguez was heard talking by the Japanese guard. When the guard came blustering into the cell to ask who it was he had heard talking, Manahan raised his hand because he was the youngest among those in the cell and could take punishment better. The guard whacked him with half a dozen blows of a rubber hose, Manahan did not mind.

One of their deadliest tormentors in prison, according to Manahan, were the lice which clung hard to their bodies. The itches they caused were infernal.

After his release, Manahan worked for the underground press, for which he was later awarded the Legion of Honor, with an officer's rank.

Shortly after the war, he helped edit and publish the *Free Philippines*, a political paper. Later, he published the *Liberty News*, a daily in English, *Bagong Buhay*, a Tagalog daily, and *Voz de Manila*, a Spanish publication.

He attended the United Nations conference in San Francisco as a press representative. While in the United States, he undertook a study and observation of the management and publication of the Scrip Howard newspapers in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and New York. He also worked as assistant on Philippines affairs at the Jones Corporation, a US fund-raising firm.

In recognition of his leadership in Philippine journalism, he was elected president of the Philippine News Service in 1953.

He was publisher of *Bagong Buhay* when Manahan was named by President Magsaysay to head the Presidential Complaints and Action Committee, popularly known as the PCAC. He also headed an anonymous group tasked with screening the administration's prospective appointees for their moral fitness.

Thousands of citizens who could neither go to Malacañang nor write directly to the President about their problems trooped to the PCAC. Manahan exercised the President's authority in availing for it the services of the executive office, including the armed forces.

His successful management of the PCAC led to his appointment as commissioner of customs in 1953, signifying the President's faith in Manahan's integrity and executive ability.

He was also designated chairman of the Community Development Authority.

Manahan was already a senator when he sought the presidency during the 1957 elections. He ran against President Carlos P. Garcia, Jose Yulo, Claro M. Recto, and Antonio Quirino, with Gregorio Araneta as his running mate. He was a dynamic campaigner. Knowing that he lacked the political machinery of Yulo or Garcia, he relied on his personal style of campaigning. He used a helicopter in reaching voters, often chatting with them. Even the press was mystified by his style, which was reminiscent of that of Ramon Magsaysay, who had died in office in 1957. Manahan, however, lost in that election, placing only third to Garcia in the balloting.

In 1964, Manahan was voted one of the most outstanding senators.

He was named "Man of the Year" by the *Philippines Free Press*, winner of the Doña Aurora-Aragon Award for Peace, and was a recipient of the "Lux in Domini" award of the Ateneo de Manila for being a "man for others," the highest award given to an Ateneo alumnus.

Manahan served as chairman of the Cooperative Foundation of the Philippines and of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement. He was president at one time of Tabacalera. He was the executive vice president of the Manila Times Publishing Corporation prior to the declaration of martial law in 1972.

He was a member of the Rotary Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Manahan was married to the former Constancia la Guardia, who gave him seven children.

He died of heart failure on May 18, 1994 in Caba, La Union. He was 78.

At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board of College Assurance Plan.

RAYMUNDO MELLIZA  
( -1945)  
Aguinaldo's Running Mate

A revolutionary leader from the Visayas during the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, Raymundo Melliza was a native of Molo, Iloilo. He was the son of Capitan Cornelio Melliza, a wealthy landowner in the town. He was educated at the Royal College of Madrid in Spain where he met Dr. Jose Rizal and other Filipino propagandists.

In March 1898, when he learned that the revolution began by Andres Bonifacio in 1896 and taken up by General Emilio Aguinaldo in 1897, was gaining support among patriotic Ilongos, he joined Francisco Villanueva, founder of the Conspirators' Committee, to prepare the plan for the uprising in Iloilo. The Spanish garrison in the City, however, had withdrawn to Zamboanga. Thus, the Filipino rebels occupied it without a fight. They then established a revolutionary government there in compliance with the order from General Aguinaldo.

When the Council of State for the Visayas was formed on December 12, 1898, Melliza was initially named to it as a member, representing Leyte. Later, he became its president, succeeding Roque Lopez.

When the Visayan provinces were organized into a federal state under the central government in Luzon, Melliza assumed the governorship of Iloilo succeeding Delgado.

It was at this time that the American expeditionary forces under General Marcus Miller tried to take control of the province. However, the Filipino revolutionist, led by Melliza, did not allow them to land. Sensing their resistance, Miller sent one of his officers, Henry Du. R. Phelan, to confer with Melliza and his council. Later, the Americans succeeded in winning the support of the Visayans.

Under the American colonial administration, Melliza was appointed as governor of Iloilo. One of his achievements as provincial governor was the capture without bloodshed of a notorious bandit, Dionisio Papa, alias "Papa Isyo."

In the national election of 1934, which paved the way for the establishment of the Commonwealth government, Melliza ran as the vice-presidential teammate of General Aguinaldo, who sought the presidency. They were defeated by Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña.

Melliza passed away on November 11, 1945, leaving behind his wife, Germana Conlu. They had no children.

ELIODORO MERCADO  
(1866-1933)  
Pioneer Leprologist

**E**liodoro Mercado was born on July 3, 1866 in Sta. Cruz, Manila. His father, Jose Mercado, who belonged to the Jose Rizal clan, facilitated the travel to Spain of Dr. Rizal by lending him his *cedula personal*. His mother was Valentina Donato.

He first studied at the private school of Vicente L. Roque, where he learned Latin. From 1883 to 1885, he was a student at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, where he received his *bachiller en artes* degree. He then enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas, graduating there in 1893 with a *licenciado en medicina y cirugia*.

Mercado confined himself to private practice until he joined government service upon the invitation of Dr. T.H. Pardo de Tavera, who was impressed with his dedication to the medical profession.

In 1898, he was appointed *medico auxiliar* in the Cuerpo Militar de Malate.

On a meager salary of one hundred pesos a month, he worked in various makeshift hospitals established in Pandacan, Tayuman, and Bambang during the epidemic of 1900. He became physician at the San Lazaro Hospital on October 15, 1900. Three years later, he passed the medical board

examination with a grade of 95 percent. He continued his job at the hospital's leprosy department and concentrated his research on leprology.

Dr. Mercado's painstaking studies on leprosy led him to a significant discovery in its treatment. As early as 1906, he was already treating lepers with parenteral administration of chaulmoogra oil. In a report he made during the Second Regional Assembly of Physicians and Pharmacists of the Philippines in Manila in 1914, he cited the treatment which he had instituted and the success he achieved in radically curing several leper patients with his method.

In 1922, Dr. Herbert W. Wade joined the Cullion Leper Colony as pathologist and acting chief physician. He, too, conducted leprosy studies and came up with a formal classification of the different forms of leprosy which were already included in Dr. Mercado's investigations contained in his report. "Using this method with ethyl ester, the Cullion investigators under the leadership of H.W. Wade, have obtained from their systematic, painstaking works, results that are outstanding contributions in experimental therapeutics," in the words of Dr. Daniel de la Paz. Although Dr. Wade never mentioned Dr. Mercado nor did he cite his contribution to the so-called development of an improved chaulmoogra product – chaulmoogra (or hydnocarpal) ethyl esters, reintroduced from Hawaii – no such improvement could have been possible without the pioneering research of Dr. Mercado for which, in the present age, he could have been awarded a Nobel prize.

His death in 1933 was a terrible loss in the field of leprology, but his contributions to the study of this dreaded disease greatly advanced the progress achieved in its treatment.

## DIEGO MOJICA

### Katipunan Leader

One of the largely unrecognized figures of the Katipunan was Diego Mojica, who was among the first to organize the revolutionary movement in Cavite. As an official of the Magdiwang Council, he became a very close associate of the Katipunan Supremo, Andres Bonifacio. When he was born or where he was educated is not known.

Mojica was a native of San Francisco de Malabon, now General Trias, Cavite. He was married to Igmedia Grepo, who hailed from the same town.

Mojica was among the first to join the Katipunan in his town, where he founded the Sangguniang Balangay ng Bayang Mapagtiis, also known as the Mapagtiis chapter. Mojica, who had assumed the pseudonym "Katibayan," was its president. Other council officials were Nicolas Portilla ("Mangyari"), secretary; Mariano Trias ("Libong"), fiscal, and Artemio Ricarte ("Vibora"), treasurer. Mojica's counterpart in the neighboring town of Noveleta was Mariano Alvarez, known as "Mainam," who headed the Magdiwang chapter of the Katipunan.

At the outbreak of the revolution, Mojica, Portilla, and Trias led the successful Katipunan assault on the municipal building of San Francisco de Malabon on the morning of August 31, 1896, killing the town's chief of the civil guards and capturing their weapons. Because of their initial successes,

the ranks of the Katipunan swelled.

In November 1896, Alvarez and Mojica decided to merge their Katipunan chapters into a united provincial council, known as the Sangguniang Bayan ng Magdiwang, based in San Francisco de Malabon.

Alvarez's original chapter consisted of himself as president with Pascual Alvarez, ("Bagong Buhay"), Santiago Alvarez ("Kidlat ng Apoy"), and Tranquilino Ongkiko among the other officials.

During their meeting, the Magdiwang Council was formed with the election of Mariano Alvarez as president and Diego Mojica as minister of finance. Other elected officials were Pascual Alvarez, general secretary; Emiliano Riego de Dios, minister of commerce; Mariano Trias, minister of welfare and justice; Ariston Villanueva, minister of war; Santiago Alvarez, captain general, and Mariano Riego de Dios and Artemio Ricarte, as fiscals with the rank of brigadier general. With this reorganization, the Magdiwang Council was acknowledged as the leading chapter of the Katipunan.

The newly installed Magdiwang officials took personal charge of the collection of Katipunan funds from the towns in Cavite assigned to them: Mojica and Mariano Alvarez, San Francisco de Malabon and Noveleta; Ariston Villanueva, Santa Cruz de Malabon (now Tanza), Rosario (Salinas), and Naik; Emiliano Riego de Dios, Maragondon, Ternate, Magallanes, and Bailon; and Mariano Trias, Indang and Alfonso.

When Bonifacio arrived in Cavite to resolve the rivalry between the Magdiwang and Magdalo factions, the Magdiwang Council was reorganized for the second time and a new set of officers was chosen. The rivalry emerged following the recent successes in the battlefied of Emilio Aguinaldo, placing him at a stature equal to Bonifacio, who had suffered reverses in the first battles with the Spaniards. During that second reorganization, Mojica was again chosen minister of finance of the Magdiwang government, which took the form of a monarchy, with Bonifacio chosen as Haring Bayan or King and Mariano Alvarez, as Pangalawang Haring Bayan or Vice King.

The other officers were: Ariston Villanueva, minister of war; Jacinto Lumbreras, minister of the interior; Emiliano Riego de Dios; minister of welfare; Mariano Trias, minister of grace and justice, and Santiago Alvarez, captain general.

However, after the reorganization, a dispute erupted between Mariano Trias and Santiago Alvarez. Trias was discovered to have been forming his

own army and commissioning his own officers, to the chagrin of Santiago Alvarez, the captain general.

Accordingly, Alvarez informed the minister of war, Ariston Villanueva, about the matter. Accompanied by Mojica, Villanueva, who supported Alvarez, confronted Trias and compressed upon him the need for the revolutionary government to have a united command under the leadership of the captain general. However, Trias simply ignored the rebuke, and drifted away from the Magdiwangs. He was soon won over by the rival Magdalo faction led by Baldomero Aguinaldo.

During the election on March 25, 1897 at the friar-estate house of Tejeros for seats in the revolutionary republic that would replace the Katipunan government, Trias ran for president, thus splitting the Magdiwang votes with Bonifacio. As a result, the Magdalo candidate, Emilio Aguinaldo, who was then fighting in the field, won the election, even if there were only eight Magdalo representatives present.

Prior to the election, Mojica had warned the Supremo that the Magdalos might rig its results by filling the ballots with the names of their candidates beforehand. The Magdiwangs were also forewarned that one of the Magdalos, Daniel Tirona, would undermine the proceedings.

Even during the early part of the revolution, a nearshooting incident happened between Aguinaldo and Bonifacio. The two men, accompanied by Bonifacio's brother Procopio and Mariano Trias, were returning from a meeting on the night of January 1897 in the house of a Mrs. Estefania Potente. The house was being used as headquarters of the Magdiwang Council. The four men came out of the house with guns drawn. They walked into an alley, stopping under the trees. After a heated exchange of words, Bonifacio and Aguinaldo pointed their guns at each other. General Santiago Alvarez intervened in what could have been a bloody affair. The group then proceeded to Mojica's house to talk things over, with Mojica summoning Fr. Manuel Trias, the uncle of the minister of welfare and justice, to placate the two leaders.

The friction between the two Katipunan factions was still evident during the Tejeros Convention on March 25, 1897. When Mojica proposed that a resolution of condolence and prayer be passed for the patriots who had died fighting the Spanish force, like lieutenant General Crispulo Aguinaldo, Emilio's brother who was killed in the battle of Salitran the day before, Bonifacio objected, saying: "The love of country and service to the cause of freedom for the Motherland are the most noble attributes that would ensure

one's place in heaven. Lieutenant general Crispulo Aguinaldo and the comrades who died before are truly blessed and are now in their respective places in the heavenly kingdom. Moreover, they will always occupy an honored place in the history of our country." Had Bonifacio been more tactful in addressing Mojica's proposal, he might have helped lighten the tension between the Magdiwangs and the Magdalos.

Most of the officials elected during the Tejeros Convention were Magdalos. Nevertheless, the Magdiwangs, who composed the majority in that assembly, respected the results. However, when Bonifacio was elected minister of the interior, Tirona protested, saying that the Supremo lacked the necessary educational qualification for the post, which should go to a lawyer. He added that Jose del Rosario, being a lawyer, should be elected to it instead. Bonifacio felt insulted. He reminded Tirona of the agreement among the conventionists to respect the wishes of the electorate and demanded an apology from Tirona. When Tirona ignored him and tried to leave, Bonifacio angrily drew his revolver to shoot him, but was prevented by cooler heads. Bonifacio, invoking his position as Supremo, then declared the results of the election null and void, and left the friar-estate with his men.

After the fiasco in Tejeros, Bonifacio also nullified the appointments of all other officials in Cavite except Mojica, Nocon, and Alvarez, who were all Magdiwang stalwarts.

The Magdalo chieftain, Baldomero Aguinaldo, requested a reconciliation meeting at the same place the next day, March 26, 1897. Mojica attended that meeting together with Bonifacio, Pascual Alvarez, Santos Nocon, Nicolas Portilla, Justo Lumbreras, Artemio Ricarte, and the parish priest of San Francisco Malabon, Fr. Mariano Trias. They waited at the friar-estate house until five in the afternoon. However, not one of the Magdalos showed up, not even Baldomero Aguinaldo. That meeting could have reunited the two factions in the struggle for freedom. Instead, on March 27, the Magdalos held the oath-taking of the officials elected the other day. The officials who took their oaths were Emilio Aguinaldo, Mariano Trias, and Artemio Ricarte. Bonifacio boycotted the occasion. Magdalo troops surrounded the friar estate house in case the Magdiwangs launched an attack.

When Bonifacio was arrested on April 28, 1897 by the Magdalo forces for allegedly planning to assassinate Aguinaldo and to undermine the revolutionary movement, Mojica met with Ariston Villanueva and other Magdiwang leaders in a house in Barrio Malainin, Naik, on the evening of April 29, to plan the rescue of the Supremo. However, this plan was not carried out because of the unexpected attack of the Spaniards which led to

the capture of the towns of Naik and Indang.

During the trial of Bonifacio, Mojica was among those implicated for aiding Bonifacio in collecting troops and weapons for the overthrow of the revolutionary government. It was alleged that he, Villanueva, Bonifacio, and others had met in Limbon to discuss their planned coup d'etat against Aguinaldo, and that he and Villanueva had collected money to be used in inducing officers and men of the revolutionary army to defect to Bonifacio's side.

In his testimony, Bonifacio denied that Mojica and his group were planning to launch a coup d'etat and assassinate Aguinaldo. He said that Mojica, Villanueva, and Silvestre Domingo only passed by Limbon on their way to Buenavista. He did not confer with them "but only exchanged a few words of greeting which was customary among acquaintances."

The court, headed by General Mariano Noriel, found the Bonifacio brothers, Andres and Procopio, guilty of treason for not recognizing and respecting the supreme government of the Philippine republic; organizing and collecting arms for its overthrow, and plotting to kill its president. It sentenced them to death, which was carried out on May 10, 1897.

The court could not fully establish Mojica's role in the alleged plot against Aguinaldo and simply recommended that he, together with Ariston Villanueva and Silvestre Domingo, be investigated. Despite this recommendation, Aguinaldo did not take action against them and left them alone.

According to the memoirs of Santiago Alvarez, Mojica was among those left in Cavite when Aguinaldo moved his capital to Biak-na-Bato.

There is no information on the activities of Mojica after the death of Bonifacio, except that he became municipal president of San Francisco de Malabon from 1900 to 1901.

Unknown to many, Mojica was among the first to translate Rizal's last poem, "Mi Ultimo Adios," from Spanish to Tagalog. His work was published during the revolution. He himself had authored many poems with nationalistic and social themes, such as "Sino and Ilaw ng Bayan?," "Irog Kong Mahal," "Pasiong Bagong Katha," and "Isang Pangarap."

Mojica lived for a long time in San Francisco de Malabon. However, there is no information about his death.

According to Santiago Alvarez in his memoirs, Mojica was one of those "whose services to the motherland were ignored, if not belittled, by those who were at the helm of the government of the glorious Philippine Republic."

As a belated tribute to his patriotism, the town of Buenavista in Cavite was renamed "Katibayan" in his honor.

ALFREDO M. MONTELIBANO SR.  
(1905-1989)  
Exemplary Businessman and Public Official

**A**lfredo Montelibano was born in Silay, Negros Occidental on December 20, 1905. He was the son of Alejandro and Liceria Montelibano. He studied at the Ateneo de Manila and at the Augustinian College of Iloilo. Afterwards, he enrolled at the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

Impatient to start a career, he returned to Negros Occidental and engaged in the growing of sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar, as well as in the real estate and motor-vehicle trading business, and easily became one of the successful young men of the province. Despite his affluent family background, he disregarded the prejudices of the landowning class and stood for the just remuneration of labor. He always dealt fairly with his workers and subordinates. For this, he was hailed as a "Model Individual Employer and Labor's Partner."

The glowing write-ups on Montelibano in the newspapers soon attracted the attention of Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon, who was then finding ways to translate into reality the social justice program of his government.

Meanwhile, in February 1938, the National Assembly had convened. Pedro Hernaez, the assemblyman representing Bacolod, presented a bill on

the floor proposing the conversion of the municipality into a city. That was the dream not only of Hernaez but also of Rafael Alunan Jr., the secretary of interior in President Quezon's cabinet. Both men, who hailed from Talisay but later moved to Bacolod, wanted to see their adopted town as a southern metropolis, a business hub of the important sugar-producing region of the country. The Hernaez bill was backed by no less than the Speaker of the Assembly, Gil Montilla.

On June 18, 1938, Commonwealth Act No. 236 was approved, and the city of Bacolod was born.

While preparations for the inauguration of the city were being made, political maneuverings went on at the national level for the choice of city mayor to be appointed by Quezon. Both Assemblyman Hernaez and Secretary Alunan were very much aware that the bloc of Executive Secretary Jorge B. Vargas, Jose Yulo, and Jorge Araneta, who were all from Bago, Negros Occidental, had several candidates for the mayorship, among whom was Aguedo Gonzaga, a strong contender. They themselves had no candidates of their own. After doing a lot of research and deliberation, Hernaez and Alunan came up with a list topped not by a politician but a prominent figure in agriculture and labor-Alfredo Montelibano.

Hernaez then visited Montelibano at his hacienda in Binitin, Murcia, Negros Occidental and asked him to be drafted as the first mayor of Bacolod City, saying that if he would accept, Hernaez and his political bloc would support him all the way. Once Montelibano accepted the offer, Hernaez and Alunan wasted no time in informing President Quezon of their choice. Soon, his appointment as mayor of Bacolod City was signed by Quezon.

To enable Negrenses to attend the celebrations set on September 23, 1938 marking the birth of Bacolod as a city and the inauguration of its first mayor, Quezon issued a proclamation declaring that date as a special holiday in Negros Occidental. Due to inclement weather, however, September and early October being rainy months, the celebrations were postponed three times. They were finally held on October 19, with no less than President Quezon gracing the occasion.

Montelibano was 33 when he assumed the mayorship of Bacolod. In his inaugural address, he paid tribute to the economic genius and pioneering spirit of the founders of Bacolod, and bared his vision for a physically attractive and progressive, highly urbanized city.

As mayor, Montelibano shifted the tax burden from the common *tao* to

the sugar barons. He gave priority to the needs of the poor, specially regarding sanitation, and enforced the spirit of the law, without fear or favor. He reorganized the police force to make it a model of efficiency and service. By December 1938, the city administration was already running like a well-oiled machine. The following year, Bacolod was given the title of model city of the Philippines and, Montelibano, the model mayor.

His tenure as Bacolod's chief executive was, however, brief. After 18 months in office, he resigned his position after a dispute with certain politicians over the implementation of the city's "No-Tooting Ordinance." Upon his arrival from Manila after presenting his resignation in Malacañang, Montelibano was borne on the shoulders of his proud constituents from the airport to the center of the city. After his stint in the public service, he returned to his agricultural pursuits in his hacienda in Murcia.

On November 23, 1942, about a year following the Japanese attack on the Philippines in December 1941, Montelibano fled with his family to the mountains of Negros, and then joined the underground resistance movement. He provided support to the 75th Infantry under Lieutenant Colonel Placido Ausuejo, who consolidated the scattered guerrilla bands in Negros Oriental.

Aside from harassing Japanese forces on the island of Negros, the guerrillas stopped banditry and initiated food production campaigns. Along with other civilian leaders like Manuel Gatuslao, Tranquilino Valderama, Crispiniano Limbaga, Salvador Benedicto, Carlos Gamboa, Norberto Llantada, Aurelio Locsin, and Margarito Teves Sr., Montelibano not only gave logistical support to the guerrilla forces but also looked after the welfare of civilians in the unoccupied areas.

Mindful of the need to establish authority to protect Filipinos in the unoccupied areas, Montelibano established a civil government independent of the Japanese controlled government of the lowlands—a feat unparalleled in the history of the war in the Philippines. He asserted civilian supremacy in Free Negros and Siquijor and kept guerrillas under control, thus averting rivalries between civilian and military authorities. For his feat, he was designated governor of Free Negros on December 16, 1942. Both he and Augusto Villarosa, who was named mayor of Free Bacolod, discharged their duties in the mountain fastnesses of Mt. Kanlaon. There was a fully-functioning civil government in the mountains, complete with its own currency. Montelibano's authority extended to the island-province of Siquijor.

The liberation of the country from the Japanese saw the return of the

Commonwealth government. Montelibano was appointed by President Osmeña as secretary of national defense and, later, as secretary of the interior. He held those cabinet posts at a time when the country was experiencing great social and economic dislocation owing to the massive destruction caused by the war. Montelibano's firm and steady leadership helped the nation move on to a measure of stability and progress. One of the little-known facts about him as defense secretary was that he generously distributed his salaries and allowances to his immediate assistants who were not paid on time.

When the new Philippine Republic was inaugurated on July 4, 1946, Montelibano once again returned to his hacienda and managed his various businesses.

In 1950, Montelibano was again cited by the Business Writers' Association as a model employer. On June 13, 1952, the Armed Forces of the Philippines recognized his role during the war by conferring on him the AFP Legion of Honor, with the rank of commander.

Montelibano ignored the usual prejudices of capital towards labor. He believed that small farmers should have access to capital to improve production and to raise living standards. He made authoritative and bold pronouncements on various issues affecting the country's economy and criticized the unrealistic policies of the Central Bank regarding loans to marginal farmers, who were considered poor payers of debt. He also criticized tight trade control, considering it a hindrance to economic progress.

His concern for social justice made him active in the rural banking program in Negros Occidental. He supported the cooperative movement, particularly the Daconcogon Producers Cooperative whose facilities, including the sugar mills, were owned by small farmers.

In 1954, he was cited as the "Rural Banker of the Year" and, later, as the "Father of Rural Banking" by the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines.

During the Quirino administration, which had adopted a tight import policy to save precious foreign exchange, Montelibano was appointed member of the Import Control Commission. This was in 1951. As such commissioner, he eradicated graft and corruption in the importation of goods.

His expertise as an economist was tapped by the administration of

President Magsaysay. From 1955 to 1956, he became chairman of the National Economic Council (now the National Economic Development Authority). For his role in charting the country's economy, the Business Writers' Association of the Philippines cited him as "Economist of the Year" in 1954. During the administration of President Marcos, he served as chairman and general manager of the National Rice and Corn Administration from 1968 to 1971. In that capacity, he spearheaded the move for the country to attain self-sufficiency in rice and corn production. Later, he became president of the quasi-government corporation, Planters Products Inc., from where he retired in 1985.

Montelibano was board chairman of many private corporations, such as the family-owned Pacwood Incorporated, the pre-martial law ABS-CBN radio-television network, Country Bankers Insurance and Surety Co., Country Bankers Life Insurance Inc., the Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank, Hotel Enterprises of the Philippines, Capitol Subdivision Inc., Republic Real Estate Corporation, Pacific Woodworks International, Insular Veneer Inc., Ferro-Cement Philippines Inc., Philippine President Lines Inc., Meralco Securities Inc., and Modular Concrete Structures Inc. He was senior vice president of the Manila Electric Company and board chairman of the Rizal Youth Development Foundation Inc.

Montelibano was also elected as chairman of the National Federation of Sugar Planters.

Montelibano received various awards from the government and private sector for his salutary achievements not just as a farmer, an industrialist, an economist, and a public official, but also as a resistance leader during the war. The Negros Press Club cited him as "Negrense of the Year" and "Business Leader of the Year" in 1959 and 1960, respectively. The Negros Veterans Association of the Philippines presented him a certificate of recognition for "Outstanding Contribution to the Cause of Freedom in War and Peace and of Demonstrated Concern for the Welfare and Interest of the Veterans, War Widows and Orphans of Negros Island." The Confederation of Filipino Veterans gave him an award for "Heroic Service as a Resistance Leader and Later as Secretary of National Defense." In 1961, the Institute of Public Opinion cited him as "Model and Creative Citizen," while the Manila Suburban Press Club recognized him for his invaluable contribution as a civic leader, industrialist, and economist. The Community Chest of Greater Manila honored him with a "Good Citizenship Award for Wholehearted and Outstanding Support." The National Federation of Sugarcane Planters gave him an "Award for Outstanding Services." The Agriculture and Rural Broadcasters Association cited him as one of the "Twelve Outstanding

Public Officials of 1970."

In 1962, the De la Salle University in Bacolod conferred on him a doctor of philosophy degree, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his lifelong achievements.

Montelibano was married to the former Corazon Locsin, by whom he had five children: Corazon, Liceria, Alfredo Jr., Rodolfo, and Roberto. He died at 83 after a lingering illness on August 19, 1989. He was buried at the family mausoleum in Hacienda Binitin.

AGUSTIN MONTILLA  
(1869- )  
Negros Revolutionary

A native of Negros Occidental, Agustin Montilla was born in the town of Bago on November 1, 1869.

Montilla had his primary education in Manila, at the school run by Jose Camero. Intending to become a sailor, he enrolled at the Escuela Nautica, also in Manila.

He was in his home province when the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896. He became district chief of Negros Occidental under the revolutionary government as well as a member of the Revolutionary Committee of Negros.

When the political leaders of the island formed the autonomous government of Negros during the early part of the American period, Montilla was appointed by Governor General James F. Smith as secretary of the treasury. As member of the island government, he also served in the Negros Council, which included both provinces of Negros.

Along with his duties in the government, Montilla engaged in farming and trade. He taught at the Rizal Institute in Bacolod. He was later appointed justice of the peace.

In 1907, he was elected assemblyman representing the third district of

Negros in the First Philippine Assembly. Montilla was a member of the committee on rules, public lands, industry and commerce, mines, and animals.

GREGORIA MONTTOYA  
(1863-1896)  
'Henerala' of the Revolution

**G**regoria Montoya was a native of sitio Taguilid, barrio Tabon, Kawit, Cavite. She was born on November 28, 1863 to a farming couple of barrio Tabon, Atanario Montoya and Jacoba Patricio.

Montoya grew up to be an iron-willed woman with an usual physical strength.

Montoya married Cirilo Ayson, a Chinese mestizo. He died after six years of marriage, leaving her with their four sons - Pedro, Patricio, Marino, and Francisco. The last three died later. After five years of widowed life, she took on another man, Pedro Cacpal, who was a match for her in strength. They lived as man and wife out of wedlock and had a son named Juan Montoya, after his mother. He was two-years-old when the revolution broke out in 1896.

Gregoria Montoya signed up with the Magdalo faction of the Katipunan on August 31 of that year.

The day after her affiliation, she participated in the capture of four *guardia civil* in Kawit. The following day, she headed a Magdalo faction in the battle of Imus, where 13 arms were captured from the enemy. On the third day, heavy fighting took place in Bacoor, with General Aguinaldo himself

commanding the rebel troops.

Montoya's physical strength became known to the revolutionaries after Aguinaldo ordered her to lead a team of Katipineros to destroy a wooden bridge across the Mabolo River, which separated Binakayan, Kawit, from Bacoar, Cavite. General Blanco, who was determined to quell the Cavite uprising, had left Manila for Bacoar on November 7, 1896 at the head of a large contingent of mixed Spanish and Filipino troops. Thus, Binakayan assumed a highly strategic importance. Montoya's unit was given the task of delaying the advance of Blanco's troops by dismantling the Mabolo bridge.

The wooden planks across the bridge had already been removed one by one, and what remained were the thick and sturdy beams, each measuring about 40 feet long. To her soldiers' amazement, Montoya single-handedly raised one end of a beam while several men held onto the other end, and then threw it into the river.

Montoya was said to be a favorite trouble-shooter of General Aguinaldo, who ordered her several times to respond to calls for help from other battle sectors.

On November 10, 1896, she led a force of 30 Magdalo men, including Hermogenes Saquilayan, a bandit leader, to Noveleta. It was a reinforcement for Katipuneros, under the overall command of Colonel Luciano San Miguel, facing the Spanish troops headed by General De los Rios.

On the open field of Calero, Noveleta, close to the beach of Dalahican, Montoya stood on top of a battery, one hand holding the Katipunan flag aloft and another hand clasping a bolo. In the ensuing battle, she was hit by cannonball, fired from a Spanish navy boat off Dalahican beach, right in her midsection.

In her memory, the people of Kawit have named a street in her native barrio of Tabon "Gregoria."

MANUEL MORAN  
(1893-1961)  
Supreme Court Chief Justice

**M**anuel Moran, who became chief justice of the Supreme Court, was born in Binalonan, Pangasinan on October 27, 1893 to Juan J. Moran and Maria Palisoc.

Moran had his elementary education in his hometown. After earning his bachelor of arts degree in 1909, he enrolled at the Escuela de Derecho, where he obtained his law degree in 1913. He passed the bar examination in the same year.

In 1918, Moran entered the government service as assistant attorney at the Bureau of Justice (now Department of Justice). He was assigned municipal judge in the City of Manila in 1922. A year later, he was promoted to auxiliary judge of the Court of First Instance. He was chairman of the committee formed to revise codal laws from 1931 to 1933. Three years hence, he was with the Court of Appeals. On December 8, 1938, he was elevated to the Supreme Court as an associate justice. He was named successor of retired Chief Justice Ramon Avanceña on July 9, 1945. In April 1951, he himself retired from the judiciary, but not from the government service. He served as the first Philippine ambassador to Spain and the Vatican.

Justice Moran was a very upright jurist. He was not only a perfect gentleman, but also a model of propriety and honor.

An authority on Philippine laws, he authored the *Laws of Evidence* and three volumes of *Comments on the Rules of Court*, a classic publication on court proceedings.

He was married to the former Nieves Gonzales, by whom he had six children, namely, Nieves Moran-Garcia, Manuel, Oscar, Francis, George, and Eduardo.

He died of cerebral hemorrhage on August 23, 1961 at the age of 68.

AMELITO R. MUTUC  
(1919-1994)  
Outstanding Civic Leader

**A**melito Mutuc was born on December 19, 1919 in Arayat, Pampanga. He was the son of Anselmo Mutuc, a former municipal employee, and Ramona Ramirez. Both his parents hailed from the same town. Mutuc had his elementary education at the Arayat Public School, where he graduated valedictorian, and his secondary education at the Guagua National Institute, where he graduated as salutatorian. He duplicated his academic achievements at the Ateneo de Manila, where he graduated valedictorian as a liberal arts student and salutatorian, as a law student. After taking the bar examination, where he placed 11th, he studied at Harvard University, where he earned his master of laws degree.

Mutuc was active as a civic leader. He was a founding member of the Philippine chapter, organized in 1949, of the Junior Chamber International, a world organization of young men. That chapter, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, is better known as the Jaycees. From 1949 to 1950, Mutuc became the coordinator of its national affairs committee and, in the next two years, a director of the JCC board. He was appointed international secretary of the Junior Chamber International in 1951, executive vice president in 1952, and vice president for international relations in 1953. Mutuc was president of the Philippine chapter of the Jaycees. In 1956, he became vice president of the international Jaycees for Asia.

In 1957, Mutuc was cited by the Massachusetts Jaycees for spreading the international aspect of Jaycees

As part of his commitment to the Jaycees, Mutuc, as Philippine delegate, attended its world congresses in Manila, San Francisco, California, Edinburgh, Scotland, and Wellington, New Zealand.

After serving as vice chairman of the Philippine delegate at its 4th Regional Conference in Hong Kong and president of the Philippine delegation at its 5th Asian Regional Conference, Mutuc became the presiding officer at its 6th Asian Regional Conference.

Mutuc helped organize Operation Brotherhood, which provided humanitarian assistance to the victims of war in Laos. He was deeply involved in the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), which undertook a nationwide campaign to keep Philippine elections clean and honest. He was its national coordinator from 1953 to 1957. He was on the board of trustees of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), which undertakes development projects in the rural areas through the establishment of cooperatives. Mutuc was in charge of President Magsaysay's model rural cooperative project, the Santa Monica Project in San Luis, Pampanga, whose beneficiaries included former Huk guerrillas.

In the legal field, Mutuc was a director of the Philippine Lawyers' Association and chairman of the legal committee of the Conference of Citizens for Moral Crusade. In July 1952, Mutuc attended the International Bar Association Conference in Madrid, Spain, as a delegate.

He was a member of the Harvard Club of the Philippines, Philippine Columbian Association, and the Philippine Mental Health Association.

Mutuc received various awards and citations. In 1952, he was named "Outstanding Young Filipino" by the Philippine Youth League. The Philippine Institute for Public Opinion cited him for his achievement as a civic leader. In the same year, the PJCC, which he headed, was named "Most Distinguished and Outstanding Youth Service Organization." In July 1955, the PJCC awarded him for distinguished service. Also, the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Vietnam gave him an award for meritorious service. In November 1956, the PJCC honored him for his "distinguished and selfless service given to the Junior Chamber of Commerce while serving with outstanding leadership, vision and ability."

Mutuc was married to Rosa Blanca Medina, by whom he had four children - Jose, Ma. Corina, Rosa Maria, and Emmanuel.

He died on July 5, 1994.

ELISA R. OCHOA  
(1897-1978)  
First Elected Woman Legislator

**T**he Philippines' first elected woman solon, Elisa R. Ochoa was the only legislator who voted "No" to the declaration of war by the Philippines against the United States at the time when the country was under the Japanese occupation.

She was born in Butuan, Agusan del Norte on December 3, 1897. She was the second of the five children of Canuto Rosales and Ramona Villanueva.

In 1912, her parents sent her to Manila to take up nursing at the Philippine General Hospital. She finished the course in 1915. In 1918, she married Dr. Enrique F. Ochoa, a medical officer of the Bureau of Health.

She was a dedicated nurse. She worked in different government hospitals, such as the Butuan Maternity Hospital; the Rizal Memorial Hospital in Dapitan City; the Cebu Maternity Hospital in Cebu City; the Lanao Public Hospital in Dansalan (now Marawi City), Lanao; and the Bontoc Hospital in the Mountain Province.

In 1934, Ochoa went back to school. She obtained her high school diploma at the National University. She received her associate of arts degree, *cum laude*, in 1936. She passed the civil service examination for nursing superintendents in 1939. She was a senior law student when she joined the

congressional race in Agusan on November 11, 1941 which she handily won. She thus became the "first elected congresswoman in the Philippines."

Unfortunately, the Second World War broke out. The Japanese forces invaded the Philippines in December 1941. Subsequently, they occupied the country for more than three years.

Under their rule, the Japanese instituted a puppet government in the country. As a member of Congress, Ochoa was made to sign a legislative measure whereby the Philippines would declare war against the United States. Instead, in that male-dominated legislature, she was the only one who cast a dissenting vote on it.

As wartime congresswoman, Ochoa did not confine herself to her official duties. During congressional recesses, she led her fellow nurses in attending to Filipino prisoners of war released from Japanese concentration camps. Aside from first aid treatment, she gave such former prisoners and other victims of Japanese abuses encouragement and moral support. During the liberation, she helped distribute PCAU-supplied foods and clothes to impoverished residents in Manila.

Ochoa authored Commonwealth Act No. 704. The law provided for the establishment of maternity and charity clinics in municipalities with a population below 8,000 in order to reduce the high maternal and infant mortality rates among rural folks.

During the terms of Presidents Ramon Magsaysay and Carlos P. Garcia, she served as presidential technical assistant on health. She spearheaded the establishment of the Butuan City School of Midwifery to help solve the shortage of midwives in Mindanao.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership qualities, the government of Agusan del Norte proclaimed her a "model citizen" of the province. She was also the recipient of three gold medals for her exceptional achievements as a nurse.

She passed away at the age of 81 on September 20, 1978, leaving behind an only child, Aida. She was buried in Butuan City on September 27, 1978.

PEDRO TAMESIS ORATA  
(1899-1989)  
Outstanding Educator

**P**edro Tamesis Orata was born in Bangar, a remote sitio of Bactad, Urdaneta, Pangasinan on February 27, 1899. His parents, Candido Orata and Numeriana Tamesis, were migrants from the Ilocos region. He had a younger sister and brother who died early.

As a boy, Orata helped his parents in transporting vegetables and other products from the family farm to the village market, where these were sold.

Orata first studied in Bactad, at an elementary school which offered only three grades under a Filipino teacher. He barely passed the third grade.

Orata disliked the way teacher called upon the pupils to recite in class in alphabetical order. To avoid sitting in the row and being called first, he changed his surname to "Urata." However, he also did not want to be left out of the class, so he again changed his surname to "Orata," which placed him in the middle row.

He dropped out of school when he reached the fourth grade, and his father made him work on the farm. After one year, he went back to school, repeating grade four.

Orata studied the fifth grade in Binalonan, then continued on to the

sixth grade in Urdaneta. After finishing the sixth grade, he studied at the newly-established secondary school of the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture in Los Baños, Laguna, but he soon became homesick. After failing in Botany, he returned home to complete grade VII.

It was his sister Victoriana who made it possible for him to enter high school in Lingayen.

After his graduation from high school, Orata received many teaching offers, which he was inclined to accept. Again, his sister intervened. She suggested that he continue studying in the United States, adding that, there, he could be a working student. She provided his steamship fare with her savings.

Orata sailed to America with 79 other students and arrived in Seattle, Washington on June 15, 1920.

The students were divided into two groups. Orata's group was sent to work as a gang fixing rails and making repairs on the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railway. His gang managed to save enough that summer for them to enter the university in September of that year. Orata entered the University of Illinois.

It was at this time that he received a letter from home informing him of the death of his father.

During summer, Orata worked at a country club in Danville, Illinois or at the Montgomery Ward Store.

In 1924, Orata received his bachelor of science in education degree with honors. With his excellent scholastic record, financial help was forthcoming for his graduate work. The University of Illinois gave him a scholarship with an allowance of \$300 a year, while the Philippine government awarded him with a partial scholarship with a \$50 a month allowance. Despite these financial assistance, Orata continued to work at the Women's Residence Hall and did odd jobs on weekends so that he could send money to his mother and sister.

Orata majored in mathematics as an education undergraduate and chose educational research for his master's degree, which he finished in 1925, again with honors.

The following summer, he enrolled at the University of Chicago, taking up educational psychology under the head of the education department

who was an eminent scholar in the field. Orata scored so low at the entrance test that the professor tried to dissuade him from entering the course. When Orata refused, the professor made him promise that he withdraw from the course after three weeks if he could not keep pace. At the end of the term, the professor gave him an A, a grade he rarely gave, and apologized to Orata for initially discouraging him.

In the autumn of 1925, he enrolled at the Ohio State University. The School gave him a two-year assistantship which enabled him to pursue studies in the philosophy of education and educational research. The partial scholarship from the Philippines was also continued.

He earned his doctorate degree, with honors, in 1927. His dissertation on the transfer of training documented the fallacies of the Thorndike Theory of Identical Elements. Published by the university, it received widespread attention among educators in the United States and other countries.

Orata married a fellow student, Vinda Atkins, in 1925. After 1927, they lived separately most of the time because she lived in the Philippines as a teacher and Orata lived in the United States, also as a teacher.

Upon his return to the Philippines in 1927, Orata taught at the Bayambang Normal College in Pangasinan and the Philippine Normal School in Manila. He served as assistant chief of the measurements and research division of the Bureau of Education until Dr. Luther Bewly, the bureau director, asked him to switch places with the division superintendent of schools in Isabela province. Orata became the youngest division superintendent in the country, replacing the oldest. He soon gained the respect of his peers when he achieved the highest rating in the division superintendent civil service examination in 1930.

Orata instituted a demonstration school where teachers and education officials observed master teachers to learn from them. He did the same thing in Sorsogon, when he was transferred there in 1931.

In 1934, he and his wife returned to the United States where he had been offered an instructorship at the Ohio State University. That year, he accepted a one-year appointment at the Office of Indian Affairs as a curriculum assistant. He worked with the Sioux Indians at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. In 1937, he was appointed as technical assistant at the Office of Education in Washington D.C. After a year, he served as a special consultant at the Occupational Information and Guidance Services.

In 1941, Orata was persuaded by Dr. Camilo Osias to return to the Philippines and join the National Council of Education which he headed. The Second World War had broken out in December of that year. Orata spent the next two years with the council. When his wife died, he resigned from the council and lived with his family in Pangasinan. Orata spent the last year of the war idle. He whiled away the time playing mahjongg with his friends, among whom was Pilar del Prado, who he later married.

After the war, Orata, given the title of director of education, was asked to reestablish the schools in Urdaneta. He started with a high school with 350 enrollees that held classes in a bombed-out church. The classes were handled by 15 volunteer teachers from the ranks of the town's professionals, none of whom was really a teacher.

After a few months, the school held its graduation exercises. That school became the Urdaneta High School, the first of its kind established outside the provincial capital.

In 1946, Orata joined the Department of Public Instruction as chief of the curriculum and research division. At the same time, he served as education consultant and lecturer in charge of the graduate course at the Centro Escolar University. The following year, he became the professorial lecturer of the Cosmopolitan Colleges as well as technical assistant of the newly-organized Philippine National Commission of the UNESCO, which succeeded the National Commission on Education. Later he became its acting executive officer.

During this period, Orata headed a group of educators who served the joint congressional committee on education, whose report and recommendations were used as the basis of the reorganization of the educational system in 1950.

Together with a British educator, Orata was instrumental in the preparation of the report on the educational system of Thailand in 1948. In 1949, he became a program specialist in teacher training and curriculum development in the UNESCO and was part of its regular staff. He was the first Filipino to receive a contract without a termination date in that international organization.

Orata's work with the UNESCO required him to travel to different countries. From their various institutions, he learned much that could be applied in the Philippines at no cost to the government. He saw that in Swiss schools, students fabricated their own tools in making watches. Thus, in

1960, he instituted at the Philippine Normal College "Science for a Better Living," in which students were taught to fabricate their own equipment. He also introduced "Social Studies for Better Citizenship" to humanize the teaching of science. In 1962, he started a classroom program using concrete situations to make students think, weigh social values, and act accordingly.

He was 65, and already retired from UNESCO, when Orata accepted an invitation from the East-West Center in Hawaii to be one of three Filipinos among 35 other education specialists from nine countries to participate in a cultural exchange program. He spent 10 months there in 1964.

Returning to the Philippines in July 1965, he launched his concept of a barrio high school as a self-supporting institution, with students engaged in income-generating projects. During school year 1964-1965, he had three such experimental barrio high school in Urdaneta and one in Bautista, both in Pangasinan.

To ensure that they kept up with educational standards, the Bureau of Public Instruction sent supervisors to regularly monitor them. At the end of the school year, achievement tests revealed that the students of the barrio high schools did better than those in regular high schools. As a result of the success of the experiment, 16 more barrio high schools were established, 12 in Pangasinan, three in Camarines Norte, and one in Albay. Orata was authorized by the General Auditing Office to pay honoraria to elementary teachers willing to teach in the barrio high schools. In 1966, President Marcos officially endorsed the barrio high schools and appointed Orata as special consultant without compensation "to assist in the planning and organization of the barrio high schools and coordinating with these schools."

After meeting the conditions for continuation, the barrio high school movement received assistance from various individuals and groups, like the Asia Foundation, the National Media Production Center, Silliman University, United States Agency for Aid and Development, and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement. In May 1967, Orata and Education Secretary Carlos P. Romulo established the Barrio Book Foundation Inc. (BBFI) to start a revolving fund to enable the barrio high schools to have a steady supply of textbooks for rental or sale to the students at reasonable rates. Scholarship programs, like that of the Eva Estrada Scholarship Foundation, which offered loans to barrio high school students, were also set up. Many barrio high school students became scholars of the University of the Philippines and the National Board of Education.

On August 4, 1969, the barrio high schools were given legal existence with the passage of Republic Act 6054, or the Barrio High School Act, which

was sponsored by Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw.

With the success of the barrio high school concept, Orata found another scheme to make education available to all Filipinos. In 1966, the people of Urdaneta decided to use the proceeds of the town's fiesta, which amounted to P25,000, to establish the country's first community college as a sequel to the barrio high school, a college geared to the needs of high school graduates whose aptitudes were best fitted for middle-grade occupations and located within easy commuting distance from their homes. The town council also provided P2,000 for its establishment.

In February 1968, the new Urdaneta Community College was inaugurated with a building donated by the Office of the Presidential Assistant on Community Development (PACD).

Community colleges grew from one in 1966 to 27 in 1970, with a total enrollment of 2,600 students. All existed on their own resources, except the one in Rizal province which was heavily subsidized by the provincial government. Thirteen more community colleges were approved to open in school year 1971-1972.

In September 1969, Orata launched another educational innovation — the community preschool, when he opened the country's first community preschool in barrio Nancaysan, Urdaneta. It operated on the same concept as barrio high schools, using existing facilities, resources, and teachers during the hours when they were idle. Encouraged by the amounting interest in preschools, the director of public schools issued a memorandum enjoining division superintendents to open at least one preschool in every school in their jurisdiction. By 1971, there were 23 barrio preschools and 10 city preschools which enrolled 10,472 children.

Orata next introduced the multi-grade schools, an innovation he derived from his observations in Australia. There, a teacher could handle grades I to IV in one room by planning their activities. While two classes worked at their desks, another did nature study outside, and another recited. All classes joined in such subjects as music and physical education. Orata also observed the multi-grade system in Switzerland and France, where one teacher took charge of all the classes from preschool to fourth year high school in a single room. In the United States, he saw that one-room schools were being revived.

Orata started the multi-grade scheme in Urdaneta in school year 1971-1972.

Orata earned no salary from his work in the community and barrio high schools, community colleges, and multi-grade schools. As president of the Urdaneta Community College, he was entitled to P12,000 a year, but he returned the amount to the college. He paid his own travel expenses until the Asia Foundation provided a grant to cover a portion of such expenses. President Marcos reconsidered his contract with the Philippine Normal College, which granted no retirement benefits, and allowed him such benefits under the Government Service Insurance System.

True to their Ilocano heritage, Orata and his wife saved a portion of his UNESCO salary and pension and the GSIS allotment to provide for a modest life style. While serving with the UNESCO in Paris, they bought a house whose value doubled when they returned to the Philippines. With the money, they bought a 6,000-square-meter lot and built their house in Barrio Nancamalian East, Urdaneta, Pangasinan where they grew fruit trees and vegetables and raised their own chickens. From a small field, they got their rice grown by a hired worker.

Orata wrote more than a dozen books and published thousands of articles on education. From 1947 to 1948, he wrote a column, "What do You Think," in *Women's Home Journal*, the official organ of the National Federation of Women's Clubs.

Orata was a member of the American Educational Research Association, the Society for the Advancement of Education, the National Society for the Study of Education, the John Dewey Society, and the Southeast Asia Institute.

In 1971, he was conferred the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service.

He was listed in the *International Who's Who in Community Service* in 1966, *IBA Yearbook and Biographic Dictionary* in 1972, and the *Dictionary of International Biography* in 1975.

He died on July 13, 1989 at the age of 90.

FRANCISCO OSORIO  
(1863-1896)  
Cavite Martyr

**F**rancisco Osorio, one of the "Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite," was born on October 4, 1863 in Cavite City to Antonio Osorio (1833-1908) and Petrona Reyes.

His father was a Christianized Chinese whose original name was Tan Kim Ko. He was a successful merchant who had established his own trading firm, the Yok Tok Lin & Co., in the province. He also engaged in cattle raising. His ranch in Silang and Mendez supplied meat to the people of Cavite. Later on, he branched out to shipping, and as an agent of Ynchausti & Co., he provided materials for the Cavite arsenal. His business concerns made him a very wealthy and influential man in the province.

Osorio studied at the Ateneo Municipal. He took up bookkeeping, a course that proved useful when he started helping out in his father's business. He engaged in the buying and selling of coffee and abaca raised by Cavite farmers. Later, he accepted jobs for the Cavite arsenal. Soon, he acted as cashier of his father's enterprises.

It is not definitely known whether Osorio also became a Mason, but he was an active member of the local Katipunan organization.

His involvement in the Katipunan eventually led to his arrest.

In a testimony given by Alfonso de Ocampo, he was mentioned as one of the leaders of the planned uprising and that he and Maximo Inocencio were the ones tasked with acquiring the necessary arms for the revolution.

With 12 other men, he was shot on September 12, 1896 by a firing squad in Fort San Felipe. His remains were kept in a vault in the Porta Vaga Church of Cavite City.

Osorio had two children from two marriages. By his first wife, Soledad San Agustin (d.1891), he had a daughter named Soledad. His second wife, Consuelo Garcia, bore him a son, also named Francisco.

NICANOR PADILLA  
(1852- )  
1907 Assembly Member

**N**icanor Padilla was a physician who became a member of the First Philippine Assembly.

A native of Lingayen, Pangasinan, he was born on January 10, 1852. His parents, Tomas Padilla and Celedonia Escobar, were wealthy landowners who were both prominent residents of the town. His father died when he was only 11 years old.

The young Padilla left for Manila and stayed with his uncle Narciso Padilla, a distinguished lawyer and a member of the Council of Administration of the city. He enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila, where he obtained not only his primary and secondary education but also, in March 1871, his *bachiller en artes* degree. Afterwards, he took up medicine at the University of Santo Tomas. He became one of the first eight physicians produced by the royal and pontifical university in 1877.

In November of the following year, Dr. Padilla was appointed medical officer of the province of Abra, where he served until October 1881, when he resigned and engaged in business.

In 1885, he returned to public service as the municipal doctor of San Miguel in Manila. He served in this capacity until the end of the Spanish regime in the Philippines in 1898.

During the second phase of the Philippine Revolution, he was appointed colonel in the revolutionary army, serving under General Antonio Luna as chief of the medical corps.

During the early American period, Padilla lived quietly and engaged in private medical practice. However, his friends prevailed upon him to run during the elections for the First Philippine Assembly, which was constituted in July 1907. In winning his seat as the representative of the first district of Pangasinan, he garnered the highest number of votes in the province.

ISABEL PADUA  
(1898-1995)  
Soprano and Voice Teacher

Isabel P. Padua was a lawyer who devoted her life to music, as a singer and, specially, a voice teacher.

She was born in San Fernando, La Union on July 15, 1898 to Ansberto Padua and Dolores Garde y Paredes. Her parents who were both of Spanish lineage, were in the tobacco business, the main economic activity in the region.

She was married to Dr. Regino G. Padua, the secretary of health during the Roxas and Quirino administrations.

Padua obtained her elementary and secondary education at a school in San Fernando. Afterwards, she attended the Philippine Law School in Manila, graduating there with the degree of bachelor of laws in 1924. She passed the bar examinations the following year in 1925.

Not content with being a lawyer, she then took up voice culture at the Conservatory of Music of the University of the Philippines, where she earned her bachelor of music degree in 1933.

A mezzo-soprano with a rich, mellow voice, she appeared as Suzuki in the opera "Madam Butterfly," with Isang Tapales as Cho-Cho An.

A dedicated music teacher referred as “Maestra Padua,” she spent her later years teaching voice culture in the conservatories of such schools as Centro Escolar University, St. Paul College, Sta. Isabel College, and in the University of the East. Working full time, she also gave private voice lessons at the studio in her Pasay residence. One of her students in Centro Escolar, Aurora Bitong, was chosen to sing the lead role with the world-famous tenor, Arigo Pola, in “La Traviata.”

For her unselfish efforts in promoting opera in the country, she was given a citation by Centro Escolar University, then under the directorship of Dr. Antonio Molina. On December 16, 1986, her students paid her a musical tribute in a concert entitled “Gems of Musical Memories.” at the Philamlife Auditorium, for her lifelong contributions to the promotion of Philippine musical art.

Maestra Padua had seven children, namely: Ceferino, Alfonso, Remedios, Emelita, Zaida, Evelyn and Benjamin.

She passed away at the age of 97 on September 6, 1995.

CATALINO S. PALISOC  
(1865-1932)  
Zarzuela Playwright and Producer

**T**his renowned Pangasinan dramatist was born on April 30, 1865 in Lingayen, Pangasinan to Francisco Palisoc and his first wife, Guillerma Sison.

Palisoc had his early education in the province. He studied under maestros Domingo Bengzon, Mariano Callao, Guillermo Manday, and Bernardo Villamil. He finished the *segunda enseñanza* at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and his bachelor of arts degree, at the University of Santo Tomas, in 1888.

While he was in the city, he watched stage plays and frequented the theaters.

Upon his return to Lingayen, he entered government service. He became the *directorcillo* of Santa Barbara and of Pozorrubio, and later, *official de mesa* and *defensor publico* - positions his father once held - in Lingayen.

He participated in the Revolution of 1896 by becoming a volunteer. He communicated with the insurgents.

During the short lived Philippine Republic, he was appointed justice of the peace. He later became municipal president, then provincial delegate of Lingayen, and, lastly, acting governor.

During the American period, Palisoc launched his political career when he ran for governor of Pangasinan twice but was defeated, by Antonio Sison in the election in 1903 and, in the next election, by Aquilino Calvo. He also ran for a seat in the Philippine Assembly in 1911 but was also defeated, by Cirilo Braganza. Sensing that his luck was not in politics, he decided to quit and, instead, directed his efforts towards an altogether different endeavor.

His interest in the theater and talent for writing made him introduce the zarzuela in Pangasinan. He wrote his first play, *Say Liman an Naketket Pampinsionan*, a zarzuela in four acts based mainly on historical episodes and friar rule in Lingayen before the Revolution, in 1905. The enthusiastic response to its production so moved him that in the following year, he constructed a theater in the town. Made of wood, bamboo, and nipa, it was large enough to accommodate about a thousand people. He also trained local players, composed of amateurs and moro-moro actors, in his house. The music for most of his zarzuelas was composed by an orchestra, under the direction of Juan Aquino, which he had commissioned.

In time, his plays had gained fame in the whole of Pangasinan. He began giving performances in towns outside Lingayen. Along with its paraphernalia, his theater company — the cast and directors as well as members of the orchestra — would tour the province by bulcarts. The plays were staged in Alaminos, Binmaley, San Carlos, and as far as Tayug to the east.

Among his other theatrical works were: "Diad Nanariay Ambugan" (In the Kingdom of Braggarts); "Say Pacayariy Pilac (The Power of Silver); "Politica'y Tilaan" (Political Bluffing); "Manliket Ca, Baley Co" (Rejoice My Country); "Principe Antipatro tan Eneo," 1922; "Say Mabibiyang" (The Meddler), 1927; and "Talongaring na Seseg" (The Advantage of Diligence). Palisoc also wrote poems, both in Pangasinan and Spanish, and contributed articles to the bilingual newspapers *Palaris* and *El Triunfo del Pueblo*, under the pen name, "Pangalato." He also founded and edited *El Derecho*.

Palisoc was married to Ciriaca Bengzon, who gave him nine children.

He was an active member of the Philippine Independent Church.

He died of nephritis on June 15, 1932, and was buried at the municipal cemetery of Lingayen.

ENRIQUE PARAISO  
(1819-1880)  
One of First Filipino Masons

**E**nrique Paraiso, who was born in Tayabas (now Quezon Province) in 1819, was a lawyer-turned-freedom fighter. He was among the first Filipinos to become a Mason. He joined the Masonic lodge founded in Pandacan, Manila in 1868 under the Grand Oriente Español.

An employee of the Spanish colonial government, Paraiso was accused of being one of the instigators and accomplices in the rebellion that broke out in the Fort of Cavite on January 20, 1872. He was arrested and sentenced to 10 years of hard labor, and deportation for a period of from two to eight years.

He was sent to the Spanish colony of Cartagena in Africa. As a prisoner, he befriended Spanish officials, thereby gaining their trust. He was made prison supervisor and even became the intendant of the army in Cartagena. He was able to secure his release, as well as those of his countrymen and fellow deportees Crisanto de los Reyes and Maximo Inocencio. He went to France. From there, he agitated for the release of the Filipino exiles in Guam and elsewhere.

He passed away in France in 1880.

# DOLORES IGNACIO PATERNO

(1854-1881)

Composer of "Sampaguita"

A famous woman composer during the Spanish era, Dolores Ignacio Paterno was born on March 10, 1854. She was one of the 13 children of Maximo Molo Agustin Paterno. Her father's second wife, Teodora de Vera Ignacio, was the sister of his first wife, Carmen, who died early.

Like most children of wealthy Filipino families, she went to the best and exclusive women's schools, then managed by the religious sisters. She devoted most of her time to the study and mastery of music. Her teacher in piano and composition was Diego Perez.

In 1879, she composed "Sampaguita, La Flor de Manila." Considered as her main contribution to Philippine music, "Sampaguita" became a very popular tune among Filipinos everywhere because of its romantic melody.

In 1961, a renowned choral group, the Harvard Glee Club, toured in the Philippines. The club included a Tagalog arrangement of the "Sampaguita" in its repertoire.

Dolores Paterno was the sister of Dr. Pedro Paterno, the negotiator of Biak-na-Bato and author of the first Filipino novel in Spanish, *Ninay*.

She was only 27 years old when she died single on July 3, 1881.

AURELIO S. PINEDA  
(1874- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**A**urelio Pineda y Santos was born on October 15, 1874 in barrio Lara, San Fernando, Pampanga. He was baptized in the parish church of Angeles, also in Pampanga.

He attended the municipal school of Tondo, Manila, which was then under the direction of Epifanio Lopez del Castillo, for his primary education. He got the first and second year of high school education in San Fernando, Pampanga, from the private tutelage of Vicente Quirino; the third year from the private tutoring of Enrique Mendiola in Sta. Cruz Manila, and the fourth and fifth year from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

For his law studies, he spent the first and second year at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, and finished the course at the Liceo de Manila. He qualified to become a lawyer in March 1903.

Pineda was in Manila when the revolution broke out in 1896. He returned to his hometown and became a commander of the revolutionary troops.

In 1903, he stayed in Pampanga and practiced agriculture.

Prior to his election as a delegate in the first Philippine Assembly, Pineda served as a member of the provincial board.

MANUEL REY  
(1868- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**M**anuel Rey was born on November 2, 1868 in Cuyo, Calamianes (now Palawan). He earned his bachelor of arts degree at the Jesuit-run Ateneo in 1885. In 1887, he became skilled in surveying and appraising lands.

He studied medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and at the University of Valladolid in Spain, where he obtained his licentiate in medicine and surgery in 1891.

Dr. Rey held medical posts in various provinces. He was the medical officer of Lazareto in Mariveles during the waning years of the Spanish colonial government. During the revolution, he served as medical officer of Samar under General Lukban. In 1901, under the American rule, he was the medical officer of Nueva Caceres. He was the medical director of a hospital there for foreigners during the cholera epidemic in 1902.

In 1907, he was elected to the first Philippine Assembly as representative of the second district of Ambos Camarines. Before that, he was a member of the provincial council.

The Philippine Assembly opened on October 16, 1907, at precisely 9 o'clock in the morning, at the Old Grand Opera House on Calle Cervantes

(now Rizal Avenue). The first Filipino bishop, Reverend Jorge Barlin, gave the invocation. The Assembly held its first session that same afternoon at the Ayuntamiento in Intramuros, the seat of the legislative body during the Spanish rule. The independence of the Philippines was the first subject tackled by the Assembly.

At the time, the two biggest political parties in the country were the Nacionalista and the Progresista. The Nacionalistas were for immediate, absolute, and complete independence. The conservative Progresistas, who were mostly remnants of the Federal Party, were also in favor of independence, but stood for moderation. In the end, they had their way.

It was the first Philippine Assembly that legislated the creation of the University of the Philippines, the observance of Rizal Day on the 30th of December, the erection of a monument to Filipino heroes to be called the National Pantheon, and the establishment of the National Library.

## CRISOSTOMO RIEL

### Member of the Bonifacio Tribunal

A revolutionary leader from Cavite, Crisostomo Riel was a member of the tribunal which tried Andres Bonifacio for alleged offenses against the revolutionary government of General Emilio Aguinaldo and later sentenced him to death.

There is not much information about Riel, except as it concerned his participation in the revolution and membership in the tribunal. The memoirs of General Santiago Alvarez, also known as General Apoy, mention him as a colonel in the Magdiwang army.

When the Katipunan in Cavite was planning to retake the town of Silang, which had fallen into the hands of the Spanish forces on February 18, 1897, Riel was one of the leaders of the forces of the Magdiwangs. The Katipunan Supremo, Andres Bonifacio, was himself present in the planning of that counter-offensive. However, since he did not have a large force with him at the time, the task of leading the campaign went to General Apoy, the ablest of the Magdiwang leaders. Other Magdiwang leaders who were involved in the undertaking were Generals Artemio Ricarte, Mariano Trias, and Emiliano Riego de Dios.

To capture Silang, the Magdiwang had entered into an agreement with the Magdalos under Emilio and Baldomero Aguinaldo to cooperate in a joint

offensive. Under this agreement, the Magdiwangs would approach the town from the south while the Magdalos would do so from the north in a pincer movement that would surround the town and overwhelm the enemy.

Riel was placed under the command of General Riego de Dios, who was also secretary of development of the Magdiwang government. With Riel was Major Cristobal Bestante.

On February 22, the combined Magdiwang and Magdalo forces attacked the town which, to their surprise, was also defended by artillery. In the face of the formidable enemy, Aguinaldo withdrew his forces and proceeded north to Imus. The Magdiwangs were unaware of Aguinaldo's withdrawal and stayed on until the concentrated fire of the Spaniards also caused them to pull back, leaving behind a small force to ambush the enemy in case it decided to pursue them.

The next day, General Pascual Alvarez led a reinforcement force to Silang, thinking that the revolutionaries were laying siege to the town. To his dismay, he found out that he was alone in facing the enemy, who had grown confident about repelling the combined Magdiwang-Magdalo attack, specially considering that they had been reinforced by troops from Manila. To prevent his force from being annihilated, General Alvarez made a hasty withdrawal.

Thus the battle to retake Silang was a military disaster for the revolutionaries, who suffered heavy casualties. This was due not only to the lack of cooperation and coordination between the Magdalo and Magdiwang forces, which viewed each other with jealousy and suspicion, but also to their faulty intelligence on the number and firepower of the enemy.

Historical accounts mention Riel next in connection with the tribunal that tried Andres Bonifacio. His inclusion in that tribunal shows that like its president, General Mariano Noriel, he had had switched allegiance from the Magdiwang to the Magdalos, who were under Aguinaldo. It is highly possible that Riel was one of the Magdiwang leaders wooed by his former commander, General Riego de Dios, and the Magdiwang secretary of justice, General Mariano Trias, to move over to the the Magdalos. General Riego de Dios had shifted to the Magdalo side without even resigning his position as Magdiwang secretary of development, while General Trias did so after being rebuked by Magdiwang officials, namely Ariston Villanueva, the secretary of war, and Diego Mojica, the secretary of finance, for having formed a private army within the Magdiwang government and commissioning his own officers. Since then, Trias had been persuading Magdiwang

men to move over to the other faction.

Another reason for the defection of Riel, Noriel, and other Magdiwang stalwarts like Ricarte was their dissaffection with the Katipunan Supremo, who, during his stay in Cavite, was criticized for acting like a king. In fact, the Magdiwang government was established along monarchical lines, with Bonifacio being elected as Haring Bayan. Of course, personal ambitions also played a part, since many of the Magdiwang defectors were eventually given important positions and higher ranks. However, the most critical factor, as cited by historian Renato Constantino, was "Cavitismo," in which the Caviteños practically ganged up on Bonifacio, who was from Manila. This became evident when Bonifacio, who had come to Cavite to reunite the feuding Magdiwang and Magdalo factions, was himself ousted as the leader of the revolution in Tejeros Convention and, later, insulted by Daniel Tirona as unfit to become minister of the interior for his lack of a lawyer's diploma. Soon, Bonifacio found out that his followers had become turncoats, and that there were more of his followers who were ready to betray and abandon him for any reward.

Aside from Riel and Noriel, the other members of the tribunal that tried Bonifacio were Sulpicio Antonio, Tomas Mascardo, and Estevan Ynfante.

As a member of the tribunal, Riel signed its decision finding Andres Bonifacio and his brother Procopio guilty of the crime of treason against the revolutionary government. According to Major Lazaro Makapagal, who later implemented the order of execution of the two brothers, it was Riel who spoke to him and warned him to strictly abide by the Tribunal's order.

There is no further account of Riel's historical role except that after the death of Bonifacio, he started to sport the rank of brigadier-general in the revolutionary army.

# FRANCISCO MERCADO RIZAL

(1818-1898)

The Hero's Father

**F**rancisco Mercado Rizal was the father of Dr. Jose Rizal. His full name was Francisco Engracio Mercado Alejandra. He and family added "Rizal" to their surname in compliance with the 1849 decree of Governor Narciso Claveria ordering the *indios* to adopt Spanish surnames. Derived from the Spanish word "ricial," it connotes a green field or pasture.

Don Francisco Mercado was born in Biñan, Laguna on May 11, 1818. He was the son of Juan Mercado and Cirila Alejandra, both of whom were of mixed Chinese parentage.

His lineage could be traced back to Chin-Chew in Fujian, in southern China, near the prosperous and ancient trading port of Zaiton. His earliest identifiable ancestors were Chin-Co and Zun-Nio. They had a daughter, also named Zun-Nio, who married a man named Siong-Co. A son of theirs named Lam-co, migrated to the Philippines sometime during the late 1600's.

Church records showed that at the age of 35, Lam-co was baptized on a Sunday of June 1697 at the San Gabriel Church in the predominantly Chinese community of Binondo. He adopted "Domingo," his baptismal day, as his first name. He married a Chinese mestiza half his age named Ines de la Rosa, who belonged to an entrepreneurial family in Binondo.

With the rigid social stratification prevailing at the time, it was evident

that Lam-co did not come from the ranks of collies, the class of migrant menial workers from China. Through his association with two Spanish friars, Fr. Francisco Marquez, who authored the book on Chinese grammar, and Fr. Juan Caballero, a missionary who served in China, he was invited to settle in the Dominican estate of San Isidro Labrador in Biñan, Laguna. It was he who was instrumental in the building of the irrigation works known as *Tubigan*, which made the area where it was situated the richest part of the estate. He and his family lived in the estate along with fellow immigrants from Chin-Chew, China.

Lam-co and Ines de la Rosa had a son born in 1731. They named him Francisco Mercado as a gesture of gratitude to another Spanish friar of the same name. The couple had other reasons for favoring the name. "Francisco Mercado" was the name of a Spanish mestizo friar renowned for his botanical studies. Moreover, Francisco was the name of a benevolent *encomendero* who lived in Laguna.

The surname "Mercado," which means "market" in Spanish, was quite appropriate, too, since many ethnic Chinese, or *Sangleyes* as they were called, belonged to the merchant class. Many of them had adopted the same surname.

Francisco Mercado was married to Bernarda Manicha, who was from the nearby *hacienda* of San Pedro Tanusan. They had two sons named Juan and Clemente. Juan, the older of the two, became the grandfather of Jose Rizal. For a short period, he settled his family at the hacienda of San Juan Bautista in Calamba. However, hostility towards Chinese immigrants as well as natives of Chinese descent - a backlash from the British invasion of Manila in 1762, during which the local Chinese supported the British against the Spaniards - forced Francisco Mercado to return his family to Biñan.

Francisco Mercado owned the largest herd of carabaos in Biñan. He was active in local politics. He served as the town's *capitan del pueblo* from 1783 to 1801. Popular and good-natured, he frequently stood as godfather during baptisms and weddings, as Biñan's church records revealed.

When his son, Juan Mercado, was 22-years-old, he married Cirila Alejandra, a daughter of one of Domingo Lam-co's godsons. The couple had 13 children. They lived in a large house made of stone in the center of Biñan. One of his children, Francisco Engracio, was the father of Jose Rizal.

Like his father, Juan Mercado also served as the town's *capitan del pueblo* - in 1808, 1813, and 1823. On many occasions, "Capitan Juan," as his

townmates referred to him, was the *hermano mayor* in religious and social affairs. Like his wife, he was benevolent and hardworking.

In 1812, he was chosen as a representative to the Spanish Cortes under the Cadiz Constitution, which was drafted when Spain was occupied by the French under Napoleon Bonaparte.

He died when his son, Francisco Engracio, was only eight-years-old.

With his sisters and brothers, Francisco Engracio helped his widowed mother in managing the family's business. From his work at his parent's farm, he developed broad shoulders and a sturdy constitution. His long exposure under the sun gave him a golden brown complexion.

Francisco Engracio had a wide forehead and large, dark eyes. He was strikingly taller than the average Filipino. His character was described as quiet, reflective, and serious. Like his parents, he became a man of culture, charm, and hospitality.

Don Francisco Engracio Mercado attended the Colegio de San Jose in Manila where he studied Latin and philosophy. Since he belonged to the learned *principalia* class, he was elected as Biñan's *capitan mayor*, an unsalaried position. Part of his duties was receiving guests from the national and provincial governments. He was a gracious host to Spanish and native visitors alike. Like his grandfather and father, he was active in the social and religious affairs of his community.

On June 28, 1848, he married Teodora Alonso Realonda Quintos, a daughter of one of Manila's most distinguished families. Two of her relatives, Jose Florentino and Lorenzo Alberto, served as deputies in the Spanish Cortes. She obtained education at the Santa Rosa College in the city.

After 1849, in compliance with Governor Claveria's decree, Francisco Engracio Mercado changed his surname to Rizal.

When his mother died, he and his wife moved to Calamba, where he leased lands from the Dominican friars who owned most of the town. He cleared the land and cultivated sugar cane, rice and indigo. He also started an orchard planted to various fruit trees, such as atis, jackfruit, tamarind, banana, papaya, and cashew. Aside from farming, he also engaged in trade. His wife helped in the family enterprises by raising chickens and turkeys. In time, the couple accumulated a degree of wealth. Francisco Mercado Rizal was able to build a house of stone with a large yard. Behind it was the

orchard which he had started. Later, he was able to buy another house and build another one made of nipa in the middle of the orchard.

The Rizal couple was blessed with 11 children, starting with Saturnina who was born 1850, then Paciano who was born the following year. They were followed by Narcisa who was born in 1852; Olimpia, 1855; Lucia, 1857; Maria, 1859; Jose, 1861; Concepcion, 1862; Josefa, 1865; Trinidad, 1868, and Soledad, 1870.

The Rizal family was a happy one, united by strong paternal affection and understanding and harmony among the children. Jose Rizal described him as "a model of fathers" who provided him and his brother and sisters "an education commensurate with our small fortune." He recalled that his father hired an old man, his former classmate, Leon Monroy, to teach him Latin at an early age. The girls of the Rizal family studied at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion (now Corcordia College) in Santa Ana, while Paciano studied at the Colegio de San Jose. Seeing that his son Jose was intellectually gifted, Francisco Mercado sent him to study in a private school in Biñan under Justiniano Aquino Cruz, and later to the Ateneo Municipal, and the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila.

Afterwards, over the objections of his wife, who feared that "Pepe," as Rizal was called, "would have his head cut off, if he knew too much," he sent him to study at the University of Santo Tomas and, eventually, abroad to prepare for a career in medicine.

Francisco Mercado endured the oppressions of the Spanish friars, who unjustly raised and rent of the land in Calamba. When he refused to pay the increased rates, he and his family were expelled by the friars with the aid of soldiers. The leader of the soldiers was Francisco Olive, who already a colonel, presided over Jose Rizal's trial at Fort Santiago. There is no doubt that Rizal's own father was his inspiration of Cablesang Tales, one of the characters in his second novel, *El Filibusterismo*.

After their expulsion from Calamba, the Rizal family lived in Manila. After a visit to North Borneo, Rizal tried to have his family resettled there, but this plan did not materialize.

Francisco survived the execution of his son at Bagumbayan on December 30, 1896. He died in Manila on January 5, 1898 at the age of 79.

JOSEFA RIZAL  
(1865-1946)  
Rizal's Sister, Katipunan Official

**A**ffectionately called "Pangoy" by Jose Rizal, Josefa Alonso Rizal was the ninth child of Francisco Mercado and Teodora Alonso and the third youngest sister of the national hero, after Soledad and Trinidad. She was born in 1865 in Calamba, Laguna.

Josefa was an eager learner of languages which were an influence on her illustrious brother. She spoke French, and during her stay with Rizal in Hong Kong, she learned English. Some of Rizal's letters to Josefa were written in English.

A week after Rizal arrived from Hong Kong on June 26, 1892, Josefa accompanied him, together with her sister Trinidad and niece Angelica Lopez Rizal, to speak at a meeting in the house of Doroteo Onjungco on Ilaya Street (now Juan Luna) in Tondo. The meeting was attended by liberals and Masons, among whom were Faustino Villaruel and his daughter Rosario, who became the first Filipino woman Mason. It was during this occasion that she and her sister were introduced to Masonry, which sought to create a society of equals, free from the dogmatism of the friars. With her sister and niece, she was inducted later into the Logia de Adopcion, assuming the symbolic name "Sumikat."

Josefa Rizal became one of the first female members of the Katipunan. She was inducted into it one evening in July 1893, together with her nieces

Angelica Lopez Rizal and Delfina Herbosa Rizal, Benita Rodriguez, and Gregoria de Jesus. That same night, Gregoria de Jesus married the Katipunan Supremo, Andres Bonifacio, in the Katipunan rites. Also, the women's section of the secret society was formed, with De Jesus taking the name "Lakangbini," or muse. Josefa Rizal was elected President of the section, with De Jesus as vice president and Angelica Lopez Rizal as fiscal. The women's group provided a convenient cover for the secret meetings of the Katipunan and performed the dangerous task of keeping and transporting revolutionary documents and other materials.

Josefa Rizal was petite and squint-eyed. She had a sense of humor. Compared to her sister Trinidad, she was amiable and could easily see the brighter side of things. Like Trinidad, however, she remained unmarried.

After the revolution, the two sisters settled on O'Donnell Street in Santa Cruz, Manila where they led a simple life, earning their income from the rent of their house. They lived through the harrowing days of the Japanese occupation.

Josefa Rizal died on December 11, 1946 at the age of 80.

TRINIDAD RIZAL  
(1868-1951)  
Rizal's Sister, Katipunera

**T**rinidad Rizal y Alonzo was second to the youngest of the sisters of the national hero Jose Rizal, the youngest being Soledad. She was born on June 6, 1868 in Calamba, Laguna, the 10th child of Francisco Mercado and Teodora Alonso.

Trinidad was one of Rizal's favorite sisters, as shown by many of his letters addressed to her, especially during the time he was abroad. In one of these letters, he urged her to make full use of all opportunities available and not to waste time on trivial activities. Rizal reminded his sister to keep the honor of womanhood and to defend the Rizal family name.

When Rizal stayed for a while in Hong Kong, she joined him in the British colony with her other sisters and their mother. With her sister Josefa, she studied English and learned to speak the language well. During the last moments before his execution at Bagumbayan, Rizal handed Trinidad the alcohol lamp he had used, whispering to her in English that "there is something inside." It turned out that the lamp contained his valedictory poem, which became known as the "Mi Ultimo Adios."

Trinidad was introduced to Masonry during a meeting of liberals in the house of Doroteo Onjungco on June 26, 1892, during which she met Rosario Villaruel, the first Filipino woman Mason. She assumed the symbolic name "Sumibol" when she was initiated later into the Logia de Adopcion, which

she served as secretary.

After the execution of her brother, she and her sister Josefa and brother Paciano joined the ranks of the Katipuneros fighting for independence from Spain.

There are two versions of how they joined the Katipunan. One said that they offered their services to Aguinaldo and, the other, that they did so to Bonifacio, since Trinidad and Josefa already knew him even before the outbreak of the revolution.

Trinidad served with the revolutionary forces in Cavite together with Rizal's widow, Josephine Bracken. They treated wounded Katipuneros at the Tejeros estate house, which had been converted into a makeshift hospital. Their presence was vital in boosting the morale of the Katipuneros in their fight against the superior Spanish forces.

Trinidad witnessed the fateful convention at Tejeros on March 22, 1897, during which Bonifacio broke off with Aguinaldo, resulting in his arrest and subsequent trial and execution for allegedly undermining the revolution. The dissension among the Filipino freedom fighters had an adverse effect on the Rizals. Not long after, Bracken left for Hong Kong and later remarried, while Trinidad and Paciano withdrew from the revolution and returned to Laguna.

Trinidad never married. She stayed with her sister Josefa in Sta. Cruz, Manila, living on the income from the rentals of the house. She died on May 11, 1951 at the age of 83.

Her remains now lie at the General Paciano Shrine in Los Baños, Laguna.

ALFREDO ROA  
(1886-1965)  
Crusading Journalist

**A**lfredo Roa was born on March 20, 1886 in Cagayan de Oro. His parents were Pio Roa, a landowner of Spanish descent who also worked for the colonial government, and Soledad Corrales.

He received his *bachiller en artes* degree from the Liceo de Manila. He also studied music and singing in the "Escuela de Canto" of Professor Victoriano Carrion, and sang in musical programs of the period.

His occupation as a writer and journalist began with his hopping from one newspaper to another as a staff writer. He was with *La Vanguardia* for a time. His interest in humanities and letters enabled him to write articles, reviews, and even one play in Spanish.

He later joined Teodoro Yangco as secretary when Yangco was named resident commissioner to the United States Congress in Washington, DC.

While he was in the US, he helped in putting out the journal, *The Filipino Nation*, a propaganda and information organ of Filipino reformists in their campaign for independence. His return to Manila sometime in 1922 came at a time when separation of Mindanao from the rest of the country was being advocated by the Americans. In his column in *La Union*, he berated American journalists for writing articles supporting the separation of Mindanao in

leading newspapers like the *Manila Times*, *Cablenews American*, and *Manila Daily Bulletin*. He was so effective in his crusade that the Filipino personnel of the American dailies staged a walk-out which paralyzed the operations of the *Manila Times* and *Cablenews American*. Of the three American dailies, only the *Manila Times* survived the bitter fight. The others were forced out of circulation. Out of this controversy, a Filipino English daily, *The Philippines Herald*, was founded.

Among his writings were *De Aquella Tragedia, Episodios de la Ultima Guerra en Filipinas* (Manila: A.T.O., 1947; 76 pp.), which recounts his experiences during the Japanese occupation. It was first published in *Nueva Era* (May-June 1947).

In spite of his work as a journalist, he also found time to play the piano and compose one complete mass and three "Ave Marias."

Roa was married to Concepcion Zamora (d. March 23, 1950), the daughter of smith and sculptor Cornelio Zamora and Cirila Santiago from Imus, Cavite.

He died on May 29, 1965.

ANGEL ROCO  
(1877- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

**A**ngel Roco was born on August 2, 1877 in Guinobatan, Albay. After obtaining his bachelor's degree at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, he took up law at the University of Santo Tomas.

When the revolution started, he went back to Albay and engaged in business at the house of the Gutierrez brothers in Legaspi.

He became a full-fledged lawyer on April 14, 1904.

Roco practiced his profession in his province. He had a good tract record as part of the Sierra and Roco law firm, which had a lot of clients, including businessmen.

In 1907, he was elected as delegate, representing the third district of Albay, in the first Philippine Assembly.

The election for members of the Assembly was made possible by the Philippine Organic Act of 1902, which was passed by the United States Congress with the help of Congressman Henry Allen Cooper. On the eve of the final discussion of the Philippine legislation, Cooper recited Jose Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios" to bolster its chances of being enacted. The recital merited the admiration of the other American congressmen, with the poem

itself showing them the degree of civilization of the people who they nearly believed to be uncultured.

According to Governor General Forbes, the election, which was held on July 30, 1907, was marked by orderliness and the absence of riots or violence.

Among those elected members to the Assembly were former revolutionaries and participants in the war against the Americans.

# MAMITUA SABER

(1921-1992)

## Muslim Scholar and Academician

A descendent of Amai Pakpak, a legendary Maranao resistance leader during the Spanish colonial times, Mamitua Saber was born on March 18, 1921. He was heir apparent to the datuship of Marawi.

He was a scholar steeped not only in Maranao but also Muslim sociocultural affairs.

Saber had his elementary education in Camp Keithley, 1928-1937, and his high school education partly in Lanao High School, 1937-1939, and at the National University, 1939-1941. He was enrolled in a college course at the University of Manila when war broke out in 1941.

He worked as translator-researcher at the National Library from 1939 to 1943.

Saber took up journalism at the University of Santo Tomas in 1947, graduating in 1949. He received his master's degree in 1957 and doctor of philosophy degree in 1967 from Kansas University in the United States.

In 1950, he helped organize the Marawi sultanate league.

Dr. Saber was one of the founders of the Mindanao State University,

which was established in 1961. He was largely responsible for the quit-claim of property owners of its Marawi campus. At one time or another, he held nearly all of the major administrative positions at the school, including head of the sociology department and vice president.

At his initiative, MSU came out with a publication that gave the university a reputation as a source of important scholarly researches.

In 1962, Saber founded the on-campus University Research Center, to serve as a cultural beacon in the heart of Moroland for the conduct of studies and researches on Muslim culture, sciences, philosophy, arts, and literature. He also started a museum of Muslim arts named after Prince Aga Khan IV, who had donated P150,000 for the construction of its edifice during his visit to the university on November 23, 1963.

Dr. Saber was well-known in the Philippines not only as an academican but also as an author of well-researched and well-written articles, monographs, and books on Muslim culture. He was the first Maranao to be listed in the "International Who's Who" directories in France, England, Hongkong, and Singapore.

He was married to Orfia Alicer of Tanauan, Leyte, by whom he had eight children: Maadurah, Rashid, Minerva, Farida, Delilah, Amer, Mindamera, and Eskandar.

He died on January 31, 1992.

The following April, at MSU's commencement exercises, he was posthumously awarded the position of professor emeritus at the university, the first person to be so honored by MSU. On March 18, 1994, its University Research Center was renamed after him, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the center and to the university as a whole.

JOSE SALAMANCA  
(1863-1924)  
Delegate to the Malolos Congress

A pharmacist and writer who served as a colonel during the Philippine Revolution, Jose Salamanca was born on January 21, 1863 in Cavite, Cavite. His parents were Angel Salamanca, owner of a drugstore in San Roque, and Antonia Cosca Molina. His father had some knowledge of pharmacy himself.

Salamanca studied at the Ateneo de Manila and, later, at the University of Santo Tomas. He was taking up pharmacy in UST when the revolution broke out, forcing him to stop his studies. He joined the revolutionary forces, eventually attaining the rank of colonel.

Along with Jose Basa, Hugo Ilagan, and Severino de las Alas, Salamanca was elected as a delegate to the revolutionary congress in Malolos, Bulacan, representing the province of Cavite. He was one of the signers of the Malolos Constitution, which was promulgated on January 21, 1899.

When the congress reconvened in Tarlac, Tarlac, in July of that year, he was again designated as one of the delegates from Cavite. This congress continued its session until shortly before November 12, when General Aguinaldo disbanded the regular Philippine army and launched an all-out guerrilla warfare against the Americans.

Salamanca served on the faculty of medicine and pharmacy of the short-lived Universidad Científico, Literaria de Filipinas, which was established by the revolutionary government.

Salamanca was evidently still engaged in rebellious activities even after the end of the Philippine-American War, thus causing the American authorities to order his arrest and detention in Corregidor as a political prisoner.

After his release, he served as secretary of the provincial board of Cavite and as councilor of San Roque. He also served as a notary public.

Salamanca edited the *Cavite Press* from 1910 to 1912. He was one of the founders of the Colegio de Ligaya, a civic society in Cavite. He spent most of his time, however, in making chemical preparations, specially for perfumes and medicinal drugs.

Salamanca was married to Cresencia Diaz of Intramuros, Manila. They had three daughters: Ifigenia; Socorro, who once was superintendent of the social service unit of the Bureau of Public Welfare; and Olivia, who was one of the first woman physicians in the Philippines — a small plaza at the intersection of Taft Avenue and T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila is dedicated to her memory.

Salamanca was also a linguist, poet, playwright, and composer. He was fond of pets, specially dogs.

He died on July 15, 1924, and was buried in the Cementerio del Norte, Manila.

## GREGORIO SAN AGUSTIN

((1894- ))

Animal Husbandry Director

A model public servant, Dr. Gregorio San Agustin was born in San Roque, Cavite on April 25, 1894. He was the son of Jaime San Agustin and Antonia Mañalac.

After finishing his primary and elementary studies in public schools in Cavite, he enrolled at the Manila High School, where he graduated in 1911. He then took up veterinary science at the University of the Philippines. He obtained his doctor of veterinary science degree from UP in 1916. In 1920, he completed his postgraduate work in animal husbandry at the University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, and Cornell University.

His stint in the public service started when he was appointed veterinarian at the Bureau of Agriculture from May to June, 1916. The University of the Philippines employed him as instructor of veterinary anatomy at its College of Veterinary Science from 1916 to 1918, and then promoted him as assistant professor of the college from 1921 to 1923. He became the acting dean of the college in 1924, and full-fledged dean in 1925.

Dr. Agustin was designated assistant director of animal industry in 1933; acting director in July 1935; and director in February 1936. He became member-at-large of the National Research Council of the Philippines and member of the board of trustees of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes. He

was designated a member of the governor general's special investigating committee on the Manila Jockey Club and the Club Hipico in 1931, and the governor general's advisory committee on nutrition in 1933.

San Agustin wrote over 20 scientific papers which were published in local and foreign journals. He co-authored two textbooks, entitled, *Animal Husbandry*, with Dr. Pedro Montellano, and *Philippine Animal Life*, with Dr. Zacarias de Jesus and Carlos X. Burgos.

# FEDERICO J. SARABIA

(1886-1954)

Pioneer Optometrist

**A**n optometrist as well as optician, Federico B. Sarabia was born in Kalibo, Aklan on July 18, 1886. He was the only child of Benigno Sarabia and Inocencia Jimenez.

He joined the *pensionados* and found time to finish his two-year secondary education as a working student at a free California government Agro-Industrial School. In 1903, he transferred to Northern Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. While working as a kitchen boy, he took up a course in optometry. After earning the degree of doctor of optometry in 1906, he returned to Kalibo, Aklan to practice his profession in his hometown. He was the first Filipino optometrist in the Philippines during the American occupation.

In 1907, Dr. Sarabia married his childhood friend, Rosalia Gonzales, the daughter of Dr. Cepriano Gonzales from Baliwag, Bulacan who practiced medicine in Kalibo. The following year, Sarabia opened his first optometry clinics in Iloilo City. In 1918, he moved to Manila and opened a clinic at the Palicer Building in Escolta. He bought a new family house in Caloocan in 1930.

An enterprising businessman and able executive, Sarabia headed the Sarabia Optical Company as president and general manager. On the side, he served as first vice-president of the Optometric Association of the Philip-

pires.

In 1935, he founded the Philippine College of Optometry in Sta. Cruz, Manila. It later affiliated with the Dr. Aldecoa College of Dentistry and, much later, in 1952, with the De Ocampo College of Dentistry. His eldest daughter, Dr. Salvacion Sarabia, became the dean of the college.

Dr. Federico Sarabia passed away at the age of 68 on September 4, 1954.

Apart from Salvacion, he had 12 other children, namely: Federico II, Salvador, Iluminada, Ester, Jesus, Francisco, Manuel, Antonio, Rosalia, Carlos, Maris and Enrico.

# MARIANO SIAUINCO

(1870-1942)

Noted Woodcarver

**M**ariano Siauinco was born in Manila on April 9, 1870. He was the oldest of the five children of Florentino Siauinco and Regina Guzman. His father was a cloth merchant who owned a store on the Escolta during the Spanish period.

Siauinco grew up in a place where carving religious icons became a flourishing neighborhood business. This was what probably motivated him to learn the craft himself.

He learned woodcarving from such local masters of the period as Manuel Flores, Domingo Teotico, and Maximo Vicente. In 1910 he put up his own woodcarving shop on Calle Palma, maintaining it until 1914. He later moved it to his own house on Calle A. Farnecio. The house served as his studio and shop until his death.

Among the religious figures Siauinco carved were the San Jose, which Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano liked very much and treasured; the Mater Dolorosas (Virgin of Sorrows), which was unveiled during the Quiapo procession of the Holy Week of Monday, April 7, 1941; the Virgin de la Paz (1940); and the Corazon de Jesus (1942). A non-religious work done by Siauinco that also received notice was the life-size bust of the famous Tagalog poet, Francisco Balagtas.

Siauinco was married to Margarita Candelaria of Bulakan, Bulakan, daughter of Tito Candelaria and Antonia Reyes. They had seven children.

He died on August 20, 1942 at the age of 72.

# GREGORIO TORRES SINGIAN

(1872-1937)

Famous Prewar Surgeon

A famous Filipino surgeon during the American period, Dr. Gregorio T. Singian was born in San Fernando, Pampanga on May 9, 1872. His parents, Cristino Singian and Angela Torres, were descendents of prominent families in the province.

Singian had his primary education at the town's private college, owned by Vicente Quirino. He obtained his bachelor of arts degree in 1889 at the San Juan de Letran College in Manila. He then took up medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, graduating in March 1896 with the highest honors. He was a full-fledge physician by the time the Philippine Revolution broke out in August 1896.

Following the outbreak of the Filipino-American War on February 4, 1899, Dr. Singian served as physician of the Filipino forces in Pampanga, first in San Fernando, under the leadership of General Maximino Hizon and, later, in Bacolor, under General Tomas Mascardo. One of the revolutionary leaders who became his patient was Manuel L. Quezon. Quezon contracted malaria while serving as a field officer of the revolutionary army. Singian took him to his home province, providing him free medical treatment until he got completely well.

In 1900, Dr. Singian joined the UST faculty of medicine as professor of

surgery while he was the resident physician at the San Juan de Dios Hospital. Three years later, on May 16, 1903, he got married to Asuncion Arellano, daughter of the famous jurist Cayetano Arellano. During the year of his marriage, he founded a training school (probably for nurses) and hospital on General Solano Street, in Quiapo's San Miguel district.

Singian edited the *Revista Filipina de Medicina y Farmacia*, a professional journal for medical practitioners, whose first issue came out in July 1910.

In 1919, he was named to the board of directors of the San Juan de Dios Hospital. He became the director of the hospital the following year. He occupied this position until his death. His administration was marked by the introduction of improvements and innovations in the methods of medical treatment employed in the hospital.

Singian also became head of the department of surgery and general supervisor of internship at the UST College of Medicine.

Dr. Singian, a childless widower, died of heart failure at his Hongkong residence on January 29, 1937. He was 65. He was buried amid solemn ceremonies in his hometown.

VICENTE ENCARNACION SINGSON  
(1875-1961)  
Cabinet Member During American Rule

Vicente E. Singson was born in Vigan, Ilocos Sur on August 5, 1875. His parents were Agripino Singson and Benita Encarnacion. After graduating with a bachelor of arts degree from the Ateneo de Manila, he enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas, where he obtained his bachelor of laws degree. He was admitted to the bar in 1901.

Singson served as provincial fiscal of Ilocos Sur and Abra from 1902 to 1907. His most important achievement in that capacity was the conviction of Carlos Ayala and his henchmen for attempting to overthrow the provincial government of Ilocos Sur. He was still a provincial fiscal when he attended the Universal Exposition in St. Louis as a member of the Philippine Commission.

In the elections to the first Philippine Assembly in 1907, Singson, then a leader of the Progresista Party, won a seat as delegate of Ilocos Sur. He was reelected in 1909 and, again, in 1913.

On October 30, 1913, within the halls of the Assembly, he was lauded by Speaker Sergio Osmeña for his outstanding legislative record.

Singson was appointed as a member of the Philippine Civil Commission by the President of the United States and, later, as a member of the Public

Welfare Board by Governor General Francis Burton Harrison.

When the Philippine Senate was organized under the Jones Law of 1916, he resumed his legislative career, winning the election as senator representing the first senatorial district. He was a member of the Philippine independence mission to the United States in 1919.

After his senatorial term ended in 1922, he went into the banking, real estate, and insurance business.

His public life was far from over, though. In 1933, he served briefly as secretary of agriculture under the administration of Governor General Theodore Roosevelt. Then, he became acting secretary of finance on a concurrent capacity.

When the election for delegates to the 1934 Constitutional Convention was called, Singson ran as a candidate for the first district of Ilocos Sur, and won.

After the framing of the 1935 Constitution, Singson retired from public service. He joined the Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd. as president and served as director of several other corporations.

Singson was married to Lucila Diaz Conde, by whom he had eight children. He passed away in Caloocan City on May 27, 1961 at the age of 86.

VICENTE CUA-PECO SOMOZA  
(1862-1905)  
Co-Founder of Chamber of Commerce

Vicente Cua-peco Somoza belonged to an affluent family. He was born in Maragondon, Cavite on September 13, 1862. His parents were Faustino Yap-Tuico de Somoza and Esperidiona Isidra Cua-Peco.

Somoza studied law at the Ateneo de Manila. Afterwards, his parents sent him to Hongkong, where he finished commerce.

True to his Chinese background, he set up a trading business in Manila. It became a thriving concern.

Somoza was one of the few ilustrados who joined the Katipunan. During the revolution, he sent food and money to the group of General Emilio Aguinaldo in Cavite.

When the Malolos Congress was convened on January 23, 1899, Somoza was appointed to it as a delegate representing the province of Matti. He was a member of the committee on felicitation at the Congress.

With 21 other Filipino traders, including Juan Rodriguez, Teodoro Yangco, Pedro Roxas, and Ignacio Syypap, Somoza founded the Camara de Comercio Filipino, the precursor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce,

on July 19, 1903.

He died on September 26, 1905.

At the request of his friends, perhaps realizing his eminence, his remains were first taken to Malacañang Palace before being interred at the Paco Cemetery. However, his kin thought it was most appropriate to have his native town as his final resting place. Thus, his bones were put inside a vault in its Catholic church.

A street in Maragondon, Cavite is named after him.

FRANCISCO SORIANO  
(1869- )  
Member, Philippine Assembly

A lawyer, Francisco Soriano represented Surigao in the first Philippine Assembly. Soriano was born in Molo, Ilo-ilo on October 4, 1869. In 1881, he enrolled at the Ateneo Municipal in Manila where he received his bachelor of arts degree in 1889. He then took up law at the University of Santo Tomas. After finishing his licentiate in civil law in 1898, he practiced his profession in Molo.

During the revolution, Soriano was named secretary general of the federal government of the Bisayas. He was also a member of the judicial committee of the revolutionary government.

He was provincial fiscal of Surigao in 1901, and of Surigao and Misamis from 1902 to 1907. He quit the position when he ran during the elections for the first Philippine Assembly. He won as delegate for Surigao under the Progresista party.

His electoral victory was significant because only two Mindanao provinces, Misamis and Surigao, were represented in the Assembly. The others were excluded on account of their cultural divergence from the mainstream Filipino culture, according to the American "ethnic hunter," Worcester.

The establishment of the Philippine Assembly during the early part of

the American colonial rule was in answer to the clamor of Filipinos for a legislative body composed solely of Filipinos. The Americans promised one as soon as the country had been completely pacified and after a nationwide census had been taken. These two prerequisites having been met, the American authorities called for the election on July 30, 1907. It was a peaceful election, with almost 100,500 voters, out of a voting population of 101,000, turning out at the polling places.

Elected to the Assembly were 81 delegates, representing 35 provinces, which were divided according to population. It held its first session on October 16, 1907.

MAMINTAL TAMANO  
(1928-1994)  
Muslim Autonomy Advocate

**M**amintal Tamano, a leading advocate of political autonomy for Filipino Muslims, was born on December 25, 1928 in Tampacan, Lanao. He was a Maranao.

Tamano saw action during the Second World War as a second lieutenant. After the war, he attended to his studies.

After completing his secondary education at the Lanao High School in 1947, he enrolled at the University of the Philippines, where he obtained not only his bachelor of arts degree but also, in 1953, his bachelor of laws degree. Earlier, in 1951, he took up constitutional law at Cornell University as a Fulbright-Smith-Mundt scholar.

Tamano served as a technical assistant at the House of Representatives from 1953 to 1954.

In 1954, he was appointed justice of the peace of Marantao, Lanao. He became provincial secretary in 1959. That same year, he was elected vice governor of Lanao de Sur.

In 1963, after he was appointed regent of Mindanao State University and professorial lecturer at the Kamilol Islam Colleges, the chairmanship of

the Nacionalista Party in his home province was given to him. In December 1965, he took his oath of office as head of the Commission on National Integration.

Tamano firmly believed that the Mindanao problem could be resolved within the Philippine sociopolitical system. He envisioned national integration as a process for achieving unity in diversity.

Along with historian Cesar Majul, Tamano reflected thoughtfully on the plight of the Bangsa Moro and made recommendations for its improvement.

Tamano's recommendations are found throughout his wideranging writings and speeches, but they all seem to come together in two articles published in the journal *Solidarity* "How to solve the Muslim problem without bullets" and "The expectations of Muslims as Philippine citizen."

Tamano was a member of the Senate from 1969 to 1972. He served as Senator anew from 1987 to 1992. He was principal author of Republic Act 684, which provided for the charter of the Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank.

He also authored RA 6969 which banned the importation, sale, disposal, and transportation of toxic and nuclear wastes.

Tamano served as chairman of the Senate committee on ways and means, and as vice-chairman of the committees on rules, national cultural communities, labor and employment, and on games and amusement.

He was a member of the powerful Commission on Appointments, Senate Electoral Tribunal, and 20 other Senate committees.

Tamano served as secretary-general of the Nacionalista Party and vice-president for Mindanao of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization.

After martial law was declared, he went on self-exile to Saudi Arabia, staying there until the EDSA revolution in 1986 that ousted the Marcos regime. Shortly afterwards, he was appointed foreign affairs undersecretary by President Aquino. He gave up the post in 1987 when he ran for senator.

Tamano died on May 18, 1994. He was married twice and had eight children. At the time of his death, he was in the cable television business.

# CARMEN C. VELASQUEZ

(1913-1994)

National Scientist

**D**r. Carmen C. Velasquez was known worldwide for her researches and papers on fish parasitology and on the life histories of some human and animal parasites.

She was born in Bayambang, Pangasinan on August 7, 1913 to Dr. Raymundo Camacho, a famous surgeon, and Milagros Yangco.

Velasquez finished her elementary schooling at the Centro Escolar de Señoritas in 1926 and her secondary education at the Pangasinan High School in 1929. In 1934, she graduated from the University of the Philippines with the degree of bachelor of science in zoology. As a Barbour scholar, she left for the United States and enrolled at the University of Michigan, where she obtained her master of science degree in zoology in 1937.

She was the first woman to receive a doctorate degree in parasitology from the University of the Philippines, 17 years later.

At UP, Velasquez served in various capacities - as student assistant, 1934-35; instructor, 1936-39; assistant professor of zoology, 1956-60; associate professor, 1961-65; and professor, 1966-68. In June 1976, while she was zoology department chairman, she became professor VII.

In between her years of teaching, Dr. Velasquez traveled abroad, either

as a scholar or on official mission. She served as scientific investigator in the US Department of Agriculture in Maryland. In 1968, she held the posts of professor and researcher in Washington, DC, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institute's office of oceanography and limnology. She was twice a fellow of the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and was a recipient of research grants from the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the National Institute of Health in Washington, DC, in 1966, 1970, and 1972.

An outstanding zoologist, she became professor *emeritus* of zoology at UP and a member of the executive council of the National Academy of Science and Technology. She attended the gatherings of prestigious scientific organizations, such as the Indian Academy of Science, the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, the New York Academy of Science, the International Association of Ecology, the American Microbiological Society, and the World Foundation of Parasitologists. Her pioneering and untiring researches resulted in the publication of various scientific papers, specially on public health and conservation, that gained for her international recognition. Her name is listed in the *American Men and Women of Science*, *International Who's Who of Intellectuals*, *International Scholars Directory*, and *Who's Who of Women*.

Among the national and international awards she received were the distinguished service medal and diploma of honor from the Republic of the Philippines, "in recognition of valuable service in science and people, 1965; the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship, for notable achievement in her field of specialization 1957-58; 1963; UP Alumni Association professional award, 1973; a citation from the National Science Development Board, for her outstanding published works, 1972-73; special award, Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines, 1975; and "outstanding woman of science in the Philippines," Ninth UNESCO Biennial Conference, Kababaihan ng Lahi (1975).

The National Scientist Award was conferred on her by President Marcos in 1983.

Dr. Velasquez was married to Gregorio Velasquez, also a National Scientist. Their three children are now all professionals working in the United States.

She died on October 16, 1994.

APOLINAR VELEZ  
(1865-1939)  
Freedom Fighter and Provincial Governor

One of Mindanao's revolutionary heroes, Apolinar Velez was born on July 23, 1865, to Blas de los Santos Velez, of Cebu City, and Saturnina de la Rosa Ramos, of Cagayan de Oro. He was educated in the private schools of Misamis and Cebu.

Velez served with the Spanish government, the revolutionary regime, the American colonial administration, and the Commonwealth government.

As a young soldier in the Spanish army, he was responsible for crushing the rebellious "Disiplinarios" at Santa Ana, Tagoloan on October 14, 1887. For his remarkable feat, he earned his commissionship as a second lieutenant and also received two medals, namely, the *Cruz Roja de Merito Militar* and the *Cruz Roja de Merito Civil*.

When the Filipino-American War broke out, he organized the Mindanao Battalion. This battalion figured prominently in the battle of Makahambus, the native fort situated some 15 kilometers south of the poblacion of Cagayan de Oro (now a city) on June 4, 1900. In this encounter, the better armed and numerically superior American soldiers were beaten back by the Filipino troops. As the commander of the Filipino freedom fighters, Velez was promoted by the Provincial Council of War from a major to a full-fledged colonel.

During the American colonial administration, Velez, popularly called Señor Cayong, became municipal secretary, councilor, vice-mayor, and mayor of Cagayan de Oro. As municipal mayor, he built the Cry of Freedom Monument in Memory of the Filipino revolutionary heroes and martyrs. He also served as provincial board secretary and board member.

In 1906, he was elected as the first governor of Misamis. Reelected in 1908 for another two-year term, he was dubbed "the action man" for his various projects in education, health economics, agriculture, peace and order, public works, business, etc., that benefited many people.

He founded the Misamis (now Misamis Oriental) School of Arts and Trades, and the Mambajao Industrial School in Camiguin.

When the Commonwealth government was established in 1935, Velez held the position of register of mines until his death on October 19, 1939.

He was married to Leona Chaves y Roa, by whom he had seven children: Jose, Lourdes, Ramoncita, Vicente, Concepcion, Blas, and Belen.

ARISTON VILLANUEVA  
(1851-1914)  
Revolutionary Leader

One of the lesser known but important figures of the Philippine Revolution against Spain was Ariston Villanueva, who became the secretary of war of the Magdiwang government of the Katipunan and a close associate of Andres Bonifacio.

Villanueva was born on March 2, 1851 in Noveleta, Cavite. He was the son of Salustiano Villanueva and Aleja Valerio. He was a relative of Emilio Aguinaldo, whose mother was Trinidad Famy y Valerio, who hailed from Noveleta. Villanueva was married to Leonarda Pantaleon, who came from Cavite El Viejo, and had three children: Engracia, Andres, and Felipe.

Before the enactment of the Maura Law in 1893, Villanueva was the *gobernadorcillo* of Noveleta. As one of the early adherents of the Katipunan, he helped establish its chapter in the town together with Diego Mojica and Artemio Ricarte. That chapter, which became known as the Sangguniang Balangay Mapagtiis, was merged with the Magdiwang chapter of San Francisco de Malabon, headed by Mariano Alvarez, the *capitan municipal* of Noveleta. He was known by his nom de guerre, Mainam. During this first reorganization, Villanueva was elected secretary of war and, Alvarez, president.

The Katipuneros in San Francisco de Malabon started the revolution with a successful attack on the townhall of Noveleta in which the captain of

the Civil Guard was slain and most of the civil guards surrendered. Villanueva took care of the family of the slain captain to protect them from the Katipuneros until they could be given safe passage. Because of its victories in the battlefield, the Magdiwang was recognized as the supreme organ of the revolution.

When the Magdiwang Council was again reorganized after the arrival of Andres Bonifacio in Cavite in 1896, Villanueva was reelected secretary of war. The new government assumed the form of a monarchy in which the Supremo became Haring Bayan, or Vice King.

Villanueva fought in the Battle of Dalahikan (also known as the Battle of Calero) on November 9 to 11, 1896 with the Magdiwang captain general, Santiago Alvarez, and Artemio Ricarte and Luciano San Miguel. The battle plan for Dalahikan, approved by Villanueva, included the building of fortifications and trenches which blunted the Spanish offensives to take the rebel-held areas. It was only through the use of naval artillery that the Spaniards were able to dislodge the defenders.

Before the union of the Magdiwang and the Magdalo Councils, their members agreed to have contributions collected from well-to-do citizens for the support of the revolution. The Magdiwangs chose to collect funds from the towns under their jurisdiction. Thus, Villanueva was assigned the towns of Santa Cruz de Malabon (now Tanza), Rosario and Naik; Riego de Dios, Maragondon, Ternate, Magallanes, and Bailen; Trias, Indang and Alfonso, and Diego Mojica, San Francisco Malabon and Noveleta. The principal target of the collection efforts were the estate owners who had long abused their tenants. When they balked at paying revolutionary taxes, saying they had no money since they could not sell their crops because of the unstable situation, Villanueva resorted to violent methods to force them to. He had the stubborn ones arrested and bound with rope. Another revolutionary leader, Mariano Alvarez, also employed harsh measures.

Villanueva also caused the breaking up of large estates owned by the friars who had fled because of the revolution for distribution to the peasants. His fellow revolutionists like Mariano Alvarez had the lands forcibly taken by hacienda overseers returned to their former tillers.

The Katipunan as an army was a ragtag group lacking in scientific military training. Soon, folk beliefs such as the use of amulets or *anting-antings* to protect one from the enemy's bullets pervaded its ranks. One enterprising fellow, a school-master named Maestro Sebio, or Dimabunggo, began dealing in them. Although he never sold them outright, he received money as "donations" from his Katipunero clients. Villanueva protested

Dimabunggo's practice to the Magdiwang president, General Mariano Alvarez, saying that it was encouraging superstition in the same way the friars did to preserve their economic and political power. Alvarez, however, just laughed off Villanueva's warning, saying that, in itself, faith "was not evil as long it was dedicated to the welfare of the country." He cited the example of the Japanese, who believed that those who died in the defense of their native land were welcomed in heaven by angels.

Meanwhile, intrigues and rivalries plagued the Katipunan. Its two factions in Cavite, the Magdalo headed by Emilio Aguinaldo's cousin, Baldomero Aguinaldo, and the Magdiwang, under Mariano Alvarez, had been vying for supremacy. There was strife within the Magdiwang itself. The minister of justice, Mariano Trias, was found by the captain-general, Santiago Alvarez, to have been forming his own army and commissioning his own officers outside of the Magdiwang army. Alvarez had reported the matter to Villanueva, the secretary of war. Thereupon, Villanueva, accompanied by the secretary of finance, Diego Mojica, told Trias that he would not condone private armies.

Feeling that as a ranking official of the Magdiwang government he had every right to have his own army, Trias took the rebuke as an insult. Subsequently, he left the Magdiwangs to join the rival Magdalo camp. During the meeting for the formation of a new government to replace the Katipunan, he ran against both Bonifacio and Aguinaldo, thus dividing the votes of the Magdiwang chapter and allowing the Magdalos under Aguinaldo to win the presidency. When Trias defected to the Magdalos, he also secretly persuaded his fellow Magdiwangs to follow suit. Among those he influenced was Emiliano Riego de Dios, who did not even bother to resign his position as secretary of welfare in the Magdiwang Council.

Another incident indicative of the lack of discipline within the revolutionary ranks was the one involving Captain Mariano San Gabriel, who was in charge of guarding the front at Dalahikan. San Gabriel wanted to go to San Francisco de Malabon to attend the feast of its patron saint, Saint Francis of Asissi. His request to go was denied because of his critical military role. In his disappointment, San Gabriel took a bottle of gin to his post and drank all morning. When the liquor was consumed, he deserted his post along with his men to join the festivities at San Francisco de Malabon. On the way, he met Villanueva and two of his men. When Villanueva confronted him about leaving his post, the drunken captain disarmed Villanueva's bodyguard. Villanueva then reported the incident to Santiago Alvarez, who found San Gabriel drinking, at the town fiesta, with his men also disrupting the festivities by indiscriminately firing their firearms. Thinking that San Francisco de Malabon was under attack by the Spaniards, Villanueva and

Alvarez alerted their men and took up battle positions.

When Alvarez confronted the captain, the latter pointed his gun at him. However, he subdued and disarmed him. To his dismay, Alvarez found out that he had no men to arrest San Gabriel and his group. San Gabriel took advantage of the confusion and slipped to his post in Dalahikan. Alvarez then issued an order to have him captured, dead or alive, but General Ricarte, along with Aquilino Monton, pleaded with him to rescind it. Alvarez insisted however, that San Gabriel be stripped of his rank.

That evening, Villanueva was with Bonifacio and Mariano Alvarez. They spoke during a public rally at the town fiesta, which went to gaily despite the bombardment from the Spanish warships. Unlike the others, whose speeches were fiery and agitational, Villanueva tried to make his provincemates laugh, so that they would forget their fears, and give them words of encouragement.

With the spread of the revolution, the Magdiwang council now also covered the province of Batangas, with Villanueva chosen as the overall secretary of war.

During the Tejeros Convention on March 25, 1897, the Magdiwang and Magdalo factions met to form a revolutionary government to replace the Katipunan. Villanueva opposed the move, saying that there was no need for it since the Katipunan government and its laws were in place. However, he insisted that if a new government were to be established, Bonifacio should automatically be made president. His view was not heeded, as the other delegates supported the call for the establishment of a new government and the election of all its officials.

Earlier, Villanueva had been informed that one of the Magdalos, Daniel Tirona, would disrupt the proceedings and that he had enticed some Magdiwang leaders to side with him. Villanueva had kept quiet about it but warned General Santiago Alvarez to be ready for any eventuality.

The convention, presided by Jacinto Lumbreras as chairman, elected Aguinaldo as president, defeating Andres Bonifacio and Mariano Trias. Villanueva lost as candidate for secretary of war to Emiliano Riego de Dios, to whom he gallantly conceded. In the election for the secretary of interior, Bonifacio won over Mariano Alvarez and was acclaimed by the convention. However, Tirona protested, saying that the position should be held by a lawyer and then shouting that Jose del Rosario should have been elected to it instead of Bonifacio.

Embarrassed and insulted, Bonifacio reminded everyone that the convention had agreed beforehand to respect the will of the people. He demanded an apology from Tirona, who, however, turned his back on him, starting to leave. This prompted Bonifacio to draw his firearm to shoot Tirona. The intervention of more sober heads prevented what could have been a fatal incident.

Bonifacio, still fuming, declared the results of the elections null and void. Later, he issued a manifesto, called the *Acta de Tejeros*, which denounced the election as tainted with fraud and malice, one that should not be recognized by men of integrity. He also nullified the appointments of the new government in Cavite, except those of Ariston Villanueva, Diego Mojica, and Santos Nocon, who were all his partisans.

Meanwhile, Baldomero Aguinaldo requested a reconciliation meeting at the Tejeros Estate House the following day, March 26. It was attended by Bonifacio, Villanueva, Mojica, and other Magdiwang officials, but was boycotted by the Magdalos, including Aguinaldo. Instead, on the following day, the Magdalos held an oath-taking ceremony for the officers elected during the convention at the Tanza parish house.

Bonifacio was preparing to establish a government independent from the one installed by the Magdalos with Aguinaldo as president and was about to leave for Montalban on March 28 when his group was attacked by Magdalos. He was arrested on charges of trying to undermine the revolution and plotting to assassinate Aguinaldo.

On the night of the following day, Villanueva met with the secretary of finance, Diego Mojica, at a house in Barrio Malainin in Naic Cavite and discussed plans to rescue Bonifacio, who was being held in the estate house of Naic. They purposely left out General Mariano Alvarez and his son, General Santiago Alvarez, who were both against fighting the Magdalos as that would most likely precipitate a civil war between the rival Filipino rebel forces. The rescue operation planned by Villanueva and his group came to naught following the fall of Naic to the Spaniards and the evacuation of Bonifacio and his brother Procopio.

During the trial of Bonifacio, Villanueva, along with Mojica and Silvestre Domingo, was accused of trying to bribe the officers and men of the revolutionary army to join their side in a plot to overthrow the Aguinaldo government. With Mojica, Domingo, and a certain Santos, he was said to have conferred with Bonifacio in the village of Limbon to map out the projected group coup d'état.

In his testimony, Bonifacio said that he met Villanueva and the other alleged plotters once in Limbon but only briefly, as they were on their way to their destination in Buenavista, and that they exchanged only the customary greetings between acquaintances. He also said that the money given to the soldiers was intended as a reward for their role in the battle of Noveleta, not a bribe to convince them to join their side. However, the revolutionary tribunal, which was presided by General Mariano Noriel, did not accept his testimony. It condemned him to death for plotting to assassinate Aguinaldo and to subvert the revolutionary republic. As for Villanueva and his supposed co-conspirators, the court recommended that they be investigated for their roles in the planned coup d'état. However, he and the others were left alone by Aguinaldo after Bonifacio's execution on May 10, 1897.

According to the memoirs of General Santiago V. Alvarez, Villanueva and Mojica were among those left behind in the town of Mainam (Titingga) in Cavite after Aguinaldo left the province and established his capital at Biak-na-Bato. The two were left in Mainam with a small contingent, under the command of Colonel Arcadio Arrieta, to defend the place. Alvarez said in his memoirs that Villanueva and Mojica were among the "patriots whose services and sacrifices for the motherland were ignored, if not belittled, by those at the helm of the glorious Philippine republic."

There is no available information on the activities of Villanueva during the latter part of the revolution and the Filipino-American War.

When his first wife Leonarda, died, Villanueva remarried. His second wife was Nazaria (or Cesaria) Fojas, who hailed from Santa Cruz de Malabon (Tanza).

Villanueva died on March 3, 1914 at the age of 63, and was buried at the Tanza Catholic Cemetery.

# GLICERIA MARELLA-VILLAVICENCIO

(1852-1929)

Heroine of the Revolution

**A**n ardent sympathizer and supporter of the Filipino struggle for freedom from colonial rule, Gliceria Marella-Villavicencio was considered as one of the heroines of the 1896 Revolution. For her moral and material contributions to the revolutionary movement, she was named "Matriarch-General of the Revolutionary Forces" by General Emilio Aguinaldo.

She was born in Taal, Batangas on May 13, 1852, the third of the seven children of Vicente Marella and Gertrudis Legaspi. The Marellas were an affluent family in the province. She entered the Sta. Catalina College in Intramuros in 1864. Orphaned early, she had to live in Taal with her grandfather, Sebastian Marella. When her older sister died, the heavy responsibility of managing the family estate fell on her shoulders. She was married to Eulalio Villavicencio, a son of another wealthy family in Taal, in October 1871. They had five children.

The Villavicencios donated P18,000 to Rizal in January 1892 as a spontaneous and personal contribution to the cause of the Propaganda Movement. Their family also helped distribute propaganda literature as well as copies of the *La Solidaridad*. As a result, the Spanish civil guards frequently searched their home.

Together with Pablo Ocampo and Dr. Ariston Bautista, Eulalio

Villavicencio was later arrested on charges of sedition and inciting rebellion, and thrown into the Bilibid Prison. Gliceria Villavicencio pleaded for the release of her husband. However, when the Spanish authorities demanded that she reveal what she knew about the *Katipunan* in Batangas in exchange for her husband's release, she refused to compromise, saying "I would consider it insanity to carry his surname if I should obtain his liberty by means of my betrayal."

In February 1898, Eulalio Villavicencio was released from prison, but his health had deteriorated. He died three months later.

Aside from donating portions of her ownership rights to the *Bulusan*, which was used as a "warship" of the Filipino revolutionists, Mrs. Villavicencio also converted her residence in Taal as the headquarters of the Revolutionary Army. It was there that the "Batalion Maluya" was organized and became an effective rebel force in the locality.

The defeat of the Spanish armada by the American forces virtually ended the Spanish colonial rule in the country and ushered in the American occupation. The Filipino, however, refused to relinquish their newly won independence. Gliceria Villavicencio was one of those who rallied behind Filipino troops against the American invaders. Because of her support General Miguel Malvar, who stubbornly continued the war against of the Americans until 1902, she was deported to Manila with her children. Later, the American army returned them to Taal.

She died on September 28, 1929 at at the age of 77.

On December 8, 1985, the National Historical Institute honored her memory with a marker placed on the old Villavicencio residence in Taal.

ENRIQUE ZOBEL DE AYALA  
(1877-1943)  
Industrialist

**E**nrique Zobel, an industrialist and businessman of Spanish lineage, was the founder of the Premio Zobel, the premier literary prize for Philippine writing in Spanish.

His parents, Jacobo Zobel de Zangroniz and Trinidad Ayala de Roxas, were on a world tour when his mother gave birth to him in Spain on October 9, 1877.

Zobel studied at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, but obtained his *bachiller en artes* degree at the Colegio de Alfonso XII in El Escorial, Spain. He took further studies at the Liceo de San Luis and Sainte Barbe College in Paris. He also enrolled in some engineering courses at the Ecole Superiure des Mines, from 1897 to 1901.

In 1901, he married Consuelo Roxas, who bore him three children. The marriage consolidated the Zobel-Ayala-Roxas business triumvirate, resulting in the establishment of major industries in the country. The group engaged in the manufacture of bricks, soaps, oils, cochineals, and tobacco; undertook the exploitation of the first coal mines in Compostela, Cebu; established alcohol distilleries, ice plants, as well as the first sugar central in the Philippines.

Zobel built a factory which manufactured porcelain in 1903 and,

together with E. Soriano, the first glass factory.

As a partner and senior manager of the Ayala y Cia, he expanded the company's interests by engaging in the real estate business.

Zobel was one of the founders of Filipinas Compania de Seguros, which was established in 1913. He later succeeded Joaquin J. Elizalde as its president. He also served as vice-president of Insular Life Assurance Co., Ltd., which was incorporated in 1910; member of the board of directors of Philippine Guaranty Co. and Central Luzon Milling Co., and treasurer of El Hogar Filipino.

Zobel was involved not only in industrial pursuits but also in socio-cultural affairs. A staunch advocate of the promotion of the Spanish language and culture in the country, he was the moving force behind the establishment of the Patronato Escolar Español Asociacion Pro-Idioma Hispano. In 1920, he established La Fundacion Zobel, which is known for its annual award in Spanish literature, the Premio Zobel. He also supported scholars pursuing studies abroad. Fernando Amorsolo, who continued his art studies in Spain and the United States in 1927, was among such scholars.

Zobel took Fermina Montojo Torrontequi, a sister of Admiral Patricio Montojo of the Spanish navy, as his second wife on November 12, 1911, three years after the death of his first wife Consuelo. They had four children.

He died on February 17, 1943.

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